KNOWING RELATIONSHIP BATTLE LINES, PG14

Celebrity Buzz

Family Ties mom says she's gay

pg 34

The world's largest global newspaper

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VANCOUVER • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009 metronews.ca

Gift Guide

7 pages of holiday shopping ideas

pg 18

Surrey bus stops shelterless till January at least

INSTALLATIONS The City of Surrey started the upgrading of its 260 bus shelters by removing all of them — just as the rainy winter season arrives.

The new shelters will begin to be installed in January by Pattison Outdoor, which will spend $10 million to manage them for 20 years. They'll be larger, with benches, energy-efficient lighting and graffiti-resistant coatings.

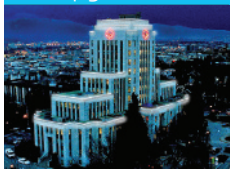
METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?

Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Local pg 6



Putting icing on the cake

Go Green

Don't forget to pick up tomorrow's special Metro GO GREEN issue, covering everything you need to know about the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and everything eco!

On the web

Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Is Tiger a cheetah?

UCHITEL: DAVID ZENTZ/AP WOODS: MARK DADSWELL/GETTY IMAGES, GRUBBS: VH1

The private life of Tiger Woods, right, took another hit yesterday after a front-page magazine article alleged the world's top golfer had a second affair with an L.A. cocktail waitress. The two women linked to Woods are Rachel Uchitel, left, and Jaimee Grubbs, inset.

More coverage, pages 15, 17.

Allegations lead Woods to publicly apologize for 'transgressions'

With a public apology and another appeal for privacy, Tiger Woods acknowledged yesterday that he let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart."

"I have not been true to my values and the behaviour my family deserves," Woods said on his website following a cover story in Us Weekly magazine that alleges a Los Angeles cocktail waitress had a 31-month affair with the world's No. 1 golfer.

Jaimee Grubbs told the magazine she was 21 when she met Woods at a Las Vegas nightclub the week after the 2007 Masters — two months before Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, gave birth to their first child. Grubbs claims to have proof in 300 text messages.

The magazine published what it said was a voice mail provided by Grubbs that she said was left by Woods on Nov. 24, three days before his early morning car crash. In the voice mail, a man says to Grubbs:

"Hey, it's, uh, it's Tiger. I need you to do me a huge favour. Um, can you please, uh, take your name off your phone. My wife went through my phone. And, uh, may be calling you ... You gotta do this for me. Huge. Quickly. All right. Bye."

It could not be confirmed Woods was the caller.

The allegations in Us Weekly of an affair with Grubbs came on the heels of last week's National Enquirer story alleging Woods had been seeing New York nightclub hostess Rachel Uchitel, who has denied it.

That story came out just two days before Woods wrecked his SUV in the early morning hours following Thanksgiving.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Area coach charged with sex offences

HOCKEY A North Vancouver man who served as a junior hockey coach for a decade and claimed he worked with the Vancouver Canucks has been charged with sex offences involving one of his players.

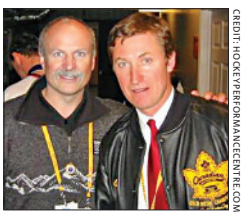
The Canucks deny that Dusan Benicky, 56, was ever associated with them, despite claims to the contrary on Benicky's online resumé.

The RCMP say Benicky has been charged with seven counts of sexual assault and sexual interference involving a player beginning in 1991.

"Mr. Benicky was the hockey coach of the victim who was 10 when these alleged crimes began in 1991," the RCMP said in a news release.

"They continued for a four-year period and stopped in 1995 when the victim was 14."

Benicky's online resumé also claims he worked with University of B.C. athletes from 1983 to 1996, along with Team Slovakia at the 1996 World Cup of Hockey and the Czech National Team at the 1998 Nagano Olympics. THE CANADIAN PRESS



CREDIT: HOCKEYPERFORMANCECENTRE.COM

Dusan Benicky with Wayne Gretzky in a photo from Benicky's website.

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Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Capture life as it happens with the Nokia N86 8MP.

Life is an exciting journey, especially with the Nokia N86 8MP. With Nokia's exclusive Ovi Maps and GPS, you can plan virtually every twist and turn in the road. And you can hang on to every moment with its award winning 8 megapixel camera. You can even share updates on Facebook along the way. From cool apps to 3D maps, the Nokia N86 8MP is full of life.

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News on the Move IN THREE EASY STEPS

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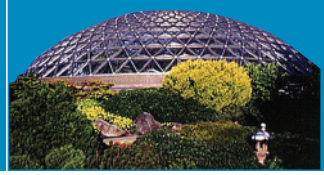
2 USE THE SCANLIFE APPLICATION ON YOUR SMARTPHONE TO SCAN 2D BARCODES IN METRO

3 THE CODES WILL DIRECT YOUR MOBILE BROWSER TO RELEVANT CONTENT AT M.METRONEWS.CA

SCANLIFE

Local



Shutdown threat spurs action

A group of Vancouverites has united to try to save the Bloedel Conservatory, left, after the Park Board voted to shut it down in March to save money. The conservatory opened in Queen Elizabeth Park in 1969 and is home to more than 100 species of tropical birds. For information or to donate visit friendsofthebloedel.ca. NEWS1130.COM

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

News in brief

SECURITY The panel advising security planners on the Olympics is giving them a cautious thumbs-up. But the panel's tepid endorsement may not pacify a public increasingly edgy about Games-time security in light of reports of police infiltrating activist groups and border officials appearing to detain those who might be coming to speak out against the Games.

TRANSIT TransLink dispatched anti-icing trucks to spray trolley wires last night when temperatures dipped below freezing in Metro Vancouver. Eighteen "ice-buster" buses drove the routes during the not-in-service period to keep the trolley wires warm.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canadian Tire's new one-dollar coin earns tepid reviews from some at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49	2, 4, 24, 25, 47 & 48 Bonus 44
BC 49	2, 8, 30, 33, 40 & 46 Bonus 47
Extra	12, 60, 69, 94

These results are not official.

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KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

A man walks by a billboard erected yesterday at the southwest end of the Burrard Street Bridge.

Billboard goes up

Squamish sign draws weak reviews at bridge

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

A billboard erected at the southwest end of the Burrard Street Bridge yesterday was arguably doing its job — and it wasn't even turned on yet — given how much it was turning heads.

But some pedestrians said it was because the sign is new — not because it's a thing of beauty — that they were doing double takes.

"I think it's ugly," said Jennifer Redding. "Maybe with a picture on it, it may look different. They could have camouflaged it a bit more."

Kim Waterman said he doesn't like the idea of "advertising in the middle of the sky," while Rod Beck said he was upset they cut down big, old trees to make way for the sign.

"I prefer the trees," said Beck.

Rob McNiff said while he doesn't love the idea of a billboard at the end of the bridge, it could have been worse.

"I don't really know what to think of it (yet)," McNiff said. "Advertising is everywhere."

The sign is the first of six electronic billboards the Squamish First Nation plans to put up in Vancouver, North Vancouver and along the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

While some people objected to the electronic signs, which measure three metres high by nine metres wide, the Squamish Nation said they will bring the band much-needed revenue.

More to come

- The five other billboards will be installed near the on-ramps for the Lions Gate and Iron Workers Memorial bridges and just south of Squamish on the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

m.metronews.ca

Scan this barcode for more Local news on your smartphone.
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of this space

Revealing Richmond with cranberry tribute to Games

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

RIVER An Olympic logo made of 13 million cranberries floating on the Fraser River is in the works for the 2010 Games.

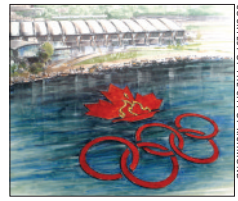
The logo, which is part of the program Richmond Revealed, will consist of a maple leaf and an Olympic torch sitting overtop the five interlocking Olympic rings. It's made of cranberries because the city is Canada's largest producer of the fruit, with more than 60 family-owned farms.

"The eyes of the world will be on us during the Games, and Richmond Revealed will tell the stories of our past, present and future," Mayor Malcolm Brodie said.

Other highlights of the campaign, meant to showcase the city's aerospace, aviation, technology and transportation industries, include a seven-storey-high Inukshuk made of stacked shipping containers and a room-sized model of the Canadarm.

A tai chi performance and dragon dance are planned for Chinese New Year on Feb. 14.

STIG NIELSEN/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER



COURTESY OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

An artist's rendering of the floating cranberries tribute to the Olympic Games that will be installed on the Fraser River in Richmond.

Young beluga christened Nala

CONTEST After six months of swimming around without a moniker, the Vancouver Aquarium's youngest baby beluga has been given a name — Nala.

The name is short for Nalautsaagaq, which means "surprise gift" in the Inuit language of Inuktitut.

More than 3,000 people submitted suggestions to name the female calf in a contest, and Nala was chosen from a shortlist that included Sila, Kuvi, Nalli and Uumamarik.

Nala was submitted by Dave and Katie Joyce and their eight-year-old son Devin from Burnaby.

"We chose the name because Nala is a surprise gift for everyone who visits the Vancouver Aquarium to be able to see and learn about these amazing animals," said Katie.

The Joyces won the grand prize of a one-of-a-kind beluga encounter hosted by the aquarium's marine mammal team, an annual family membership and a $200 gift certificate from the Gift Shop.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

THE REASONS TO BOOK KEEP ON PILING UP.

→ Record-breaking snowfall
→ Incredible early season deals
→ Improved access on the spectacular completed Sea to Sky highway
→ Historically, host resorts experience fewer skiers and riders during Games years

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INTRAWEST

Google to add Victoria, Nanaimo to its Street View program
Two Vancouver Island cities, Victoria and Nanaimo, are among nine Canadian cities that can now be toured through Google Street View. Users can search for an address in those cities and see a 360-degree view of the streets. THE CANADIAN PRESS

City considers raising parking fees

STIG NIELSEN
for Metro Vancouver

Vancouver city council is considering raising downtown parking-meter fees to $6 an hour to help reduce its $62-million budget deficit.

The proposal under review suggests raising the maximum fee for an hour of street-side parking to $6 from $5 and extending mandatory operating hours for Vancouver parking meters from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Charles Gauthier, executive director of the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, said he likes the idea because it's a user fee, and said parking is a commodity that people should be willing to pay for.

"Prices are based on demand, and there is a strong demand from people who want to take their cars downtown and who want to park just outside the shop they are going to," said Gauthier.

Nicole Kay, who drives downtown daily, said raising prices is "ridiculous."

"Why should I pay $6 to park on the street? I don't see how that money comes back (to the municipality)," she said.

Regiane Garcia takes the bus downtown.

"It's crazy to pay $6 an hour to park in the street. I wouldn't do it," said Garcia.

Former-driver-turned-bicyclist Ryan McCann said he believes the problem is complex.

"It's not as if they are just raising the meter price, they are raising it in conjunction with the property tax," said McCann, predicting it would lead to fewer people downtown and therefore less revenue for businesses.

Gauthier said he doesn't think the increase would drive people away from the downtown

"Downtown provides various ways to get there for people who will not want to drive," he said.

Evictees to get their day in court

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

HOMELESS Four people who claim to have been unfairly booted from a Downtown Eastside hotel will get to challenge their evictions after the B.C. Supreme Court ruled they are protected by residential tenancy laws.

"We got 24 hours notice to get out of our hotel and lived homeless for five months."
Blair Foster, evictee

"We got 24 hours notice to get out of our hotel and lived homeless for five months," said Blair Foster, one of the tenants evicted last May.

"(Our landlord) kept our damage deposit and a whole month's rent, even though we were out on the streets. Now we can go back to the (Residential Tenancy Branch) and claim the compensation we deserve."

The verdict overturns two decisions made by the Residential Tenancy Branch that refused to hear the cases, said Laura Track, a lawyer with Pivot Legal Society.

According to Track, the tribunal said the Residential Tenancy Act did not protect the tenants because their landlord, pharmacist George Wolsey, was providing "therapeutic treatment" by selling them methadone.

The complainants claim that tenants who get prescriptions filled by other pharmacists face eviction.

Five-year-long investigation leads to arrest in homicide

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

CRIME Police have made an arrest in connection with the five-year-old murder of an elderly Vancouver man.

George Phillip Holt, 63, was picked up in New Westminster Tuesday following a "dogged five-year homicide investigation," police said yesterday.

Holt has been charged with second-degree murder in the death of Reginald Haynes, 79, who was found dead in his room at the Columbia Hotel on Aug. 28, 2004.

Police canvassed building residents at the time and Holt — a neighbour of Haynes — surfaced as a person of interest in the murder.

Investigators believe Haynes was killed after the two men got into a fight.

News in brief

SENIOR GAMES Burnaby has been chosen to host the B.C. Seniors Games in 2012. More than 3,500 British Columbians age 55 and older will compete in 26 events, including badminton and card games. The event will be held from Aug. 21 to 25.

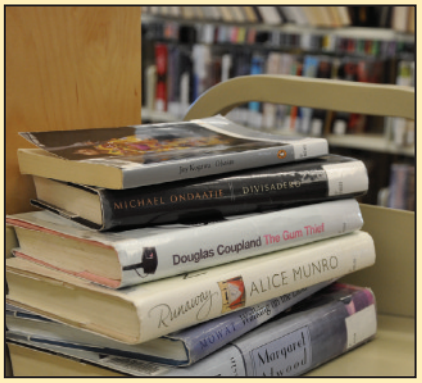
DISABILITIES The province has cut funding to a 25-year-old program that helps adults with physical disabilities in Coquitlam, cknw.com reports. Coquitlam-Maillardville MLA Diane Thorne said it's outrageous money for the Chimo Achievement Centre program is being axed when the province just committed $160,000 to the Paralympic torch relay.

PIPELINE After five months without a disturbance, people in northeastern B.C. seem to believe the "EnCana bomber" has quit, CBC News Online reports. The RCMP have combed through hundreds of tips but no one has been arrested for six gas pipelines bombings between October 2008 and July 2009. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tell Council to Stop the Cuts

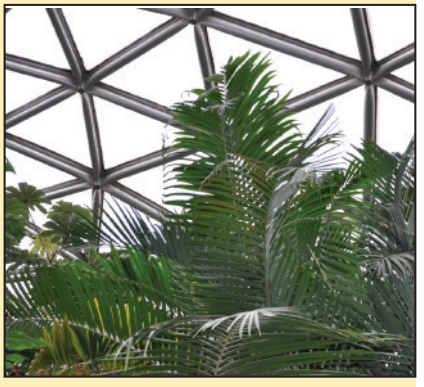
~~Closing the Children's Farmyard~~

~~Cuts to community centres~~



~~Cutting hours and closing a library branch~~

~~Closing the Bloedel Conservatory~~



City Council is making the wrong budget choices

Tell them not to cut services in our city, our parks, our libraries

City Council is making budget choices to cut public services. Reducing library hours mean less time to go to the library with your family and less access for students. Cuts to bylaws and inspections mean we won't have services when we need them. Reduction of staff that support rezoning and development will mean even longer waits for permits and approvals. They even want to cut one rescue unit from Vancouver's fire department, a move that will impact the ability to protect Vancouver residents!

Download the report detailing the cuts Council is considering:

http://vancouver.ca/ctyclerk/cclerk/20091201/documents/rr1.pdf

Public Meeting:

Thursday, December 3

7:30 PM

Vancouver City Hall,

12th and Cambie

To register to speak, call 604.871.6399 or e-mail teresita.burke@vancouver.ca

You can also register at the door from 7 – 7:30PM

CUPE

Locals 15, 391, and 1004

Working women and men who are proud to provide services in Vancouver.

Downtown library to become 'art central'
The downtown library will be "art central" with an open-air theatre on the north plaza and a light installation in the south plaza. METRO VANCOUVER

Highlights

COURTESY KEN LUM

- Ken Lum's Monument for East Vancouver, above, is a permanent work that will be located at Sixth Avenue at Clark Drive. It is large-scale and will be seen from different vantage points in the city.
- Bright Light: 14 art organizations will create temporary art projects, including light installations, in the Downtown Eastside around the Carrall Street Greenway.
- The Vancouver Art Gallery will feature large flowers installed on the north façade and a film screen on the south façade that will show works commissioned from around the world.
- Vectorial Elevation: 20 robotic, 10,000-watt searchlights will trace patterns across the night sky above the mouth of False Creek.
- Mapping and Marking: eight artists with Vancouver connections were invited to propose works of art at locations of their choosing.

ARTIST'S CONCEPT/PHOTO: TANIA RUIZ GUITIERREZ

Vancouver's city hall is lit up by Gunda Förster's Ice Light. The permanent installation features large LED strips to light up the building's edges. After dusk the lights will cascade like a waterfall every time the clock strikes the hour.

Artists to redefine city space

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

As the Olympics approach, Vancouver is embarking on a massive investment in public art that will change the look and feel of the city's visual landscape for years to come.

The city is spending almost $6 million to commission, or co-commission, more than 20 public art projects, said Rich Newirth, Vancouver's acting managing director of cultural services.

"It's an enormous opportunity to really make an impact on public space and the visual landscape of the city," he said.

Among the projects is a permanent light installation at city hall that will use huge LED strips to highlight the building's edges like a gigantic layer cake. After dusk, the lights will cascade like a waterfall every time the clock strikes the hour.

The installation, Ice Light, will also reduce the energy consumption for exterior architectural lighting by more than 70 per cent.

Other major projects include a pair of four-metre-tall sparrows in the main plaza of the Olympic village (they will be installed after the Games).

A sculpture by Vancouver artist Rodney Graham will resemble an improperly assembled balsa glider and will be placed at the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park.

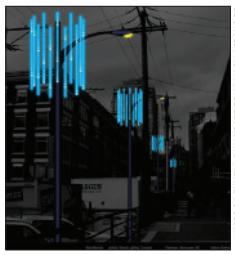
The sculpture, Aerodynamic Forms in Space, is so large that it cannot be transported and will have to be built in place. Installation will begin in December.

"They run the gamut from these very small temporary projects to these massive commissions," Newirth said.

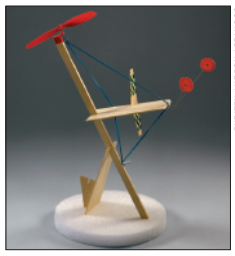
"The city doesn't normally have the opportunity to commission things like that, and I don't think most cities do."

Money for the public art comes from a number of sources, he added, including developers and Olympic legacy funds.

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER


COURTESY ADRIAN GOLLNER AND PIERRE POUSSIN

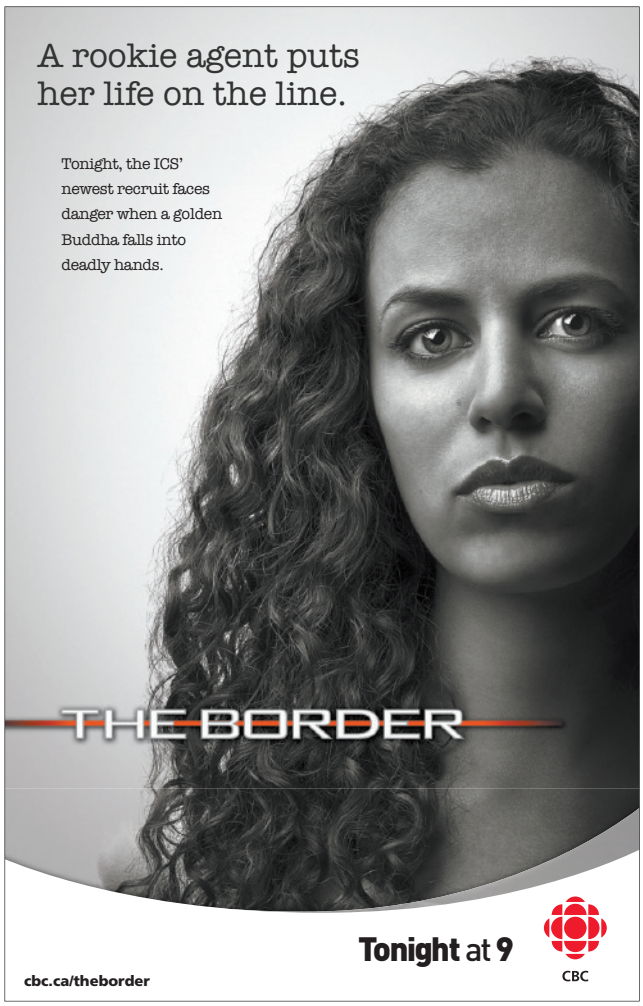
Boulevard by Adrian Göllner and Pierre Poussin includes three artistic lighting schemes — fireworks Boulevard, Rain Barrels and Flames. They will be permanent installations along the pedestrian corridors connecting the Olympic Live Sites Downtown Vancouver.


COURTESY ROBERT KEZIERE

Aerodynamic Forms in Space by Vancouver artist Rodney Graham is perhaps the major legacy work from the Olympic and Paralympic Public Art Program. It will be placed at the Georgia Street entrance to Stanley Park.

COURTESY MYFANWY MACLEOD

Myfanwy MacLeod's The Birds was among the first works commissioned under the Olympic Public Art Program and will be installed in the main plaza of the Olympic Village after the Games.



Charitable gifts, e-cards available at Burnaby kiosks
Metro Vancouverites have a new way to give back to their community this holiday season with the debut of iCare Stations at three Burnaby locations. The innovative touch-screen kiosks allow people to send messages or charitable gifts to family and friends by video or e-card, or donate to Burnaby Hospital. METRO VANCOUVER

Hockey's new home for 2010

Pavilion 'the whole hockey world, under one roof': Builder

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

The 81,000-square-foot Molson Canadian Hockey House has just been erected on the north shore of False Creek, but is not yet furnished.

If hockey is a religion in Canada, Jordan Bitove is building its cathedral.

The cathedral is actually the Molson Canadian Hockey House, which has risen in the form of a massive white tent on the north edge of False Creek.

"It will be quite emotional to people who are fans of the sport," said Bitove, president of Vision Co., as he led a tour of what will become Canada's largest freestanding pavilion.

"It's the whole hockey world, under one roof."

Hockey House — all 81,000 square feet of it — will be the home of Hockey Canada, players and their families, and the International Ice Hockey Federation during the Games.

It will also play host to about 2,000 hungry and thirsty hockey fans who will rub shoulders with hockey greats, snack on Wolfgang Puck-catered food and sip brewskis while watching Olympic hockey on 40-foot high-definition screens.

Entertainers like Sam Roberts, the Barenaked Ladies and Tom Cochrane will keep the party going until early in the morning.

The price, however, is not cheap. Single-day tickets cost $500 per person.

Other pavilions

- Hockey House is the largest tenant in the 300,000-square-foot Concord Place. The Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec pavilions will also be built on the site.

B.C. Place dome repairs cancel two conventions

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

Two upcoming annual conventions scheduled to be held at B.C. Place have been cancelled because of construction to replace the stadium's iconic dome.

Organizers of the 49th Vancouver International Boat Show and the Spring 2010 B.C. Home and Garden Show weren't able to find alternative venues.

Work begins shortly after the 2010 Paralympic Games in April to build a retractable roof, and is expected to last until the summer of 2011.

"In working with the B.C. Place staff, we decided this was the most realistic option," said Alan Stovell, president of the British Columbia Marine Trades Association.

"Despite the disruptions created by the construction, we couldn't be more thrilled about the future of the stadium."

The 2011 Boat Show will be held from Feb. 9 to 13, 2011, at the Vancouver Convention Centre, and will return to B.C. Place in 2012. The Home and Garden Show is expected to resume on Sept. 9, 2010, at the new Vancouver Convention Centre.

News in brief

DRUG TRIAL A Crown lawyer is getting added protection while spearheading a drug conspiracy trial involving two criminal gangs. Prosecutor Martha Devlin was flanked by two RCMP officers yesterday at a hearing to fix a date for bail for Jarrod Bacon and his co-accused Arnold Scott. Sgt. Bill Whalen, of the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, said no threats have been made and the arrangement is a precaution. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HEALTH The province, UBC and a university spinoff company have invested $4.5 million into research of a debilitating eye disease called macular degeneration, cknw.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Group left puzzled by federal funding cut

Kairos, a Canadian church-based group that does human rights and environmental sustainability work, says the federal government has cancelled its funding for overseas projects without warning or reason. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Missing teen sighted in Alberta: RCMP

Police said yesterday that a Toronto teen missing since the beginning of September may be in southern Alberta, but her father doesn't think potential sightings of his daughter are accurate. The RCMP said that Mariam Makhniashvili, left, possibly tried to sell dream catchers and other crafts to Okotoks businesses and could still be in the area. But her father said from his Toronto home that he didn't believe it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP accuses Tories of censoring Afghan docs

National security used as cover, MP says

The Conservative government has used national security to justify the removal of references to "extrajudicial executions" and "torture" in reports on Afghanistan, says NDP MP Paul Dewar.

The government is set to release to a House of Commons committee a large volume of censored documents relating to the treatment of Afghan detainees.

Conservative ministers have said the documents had to be censored for national security reasons before they could be released to opposition MPs and the public.

But the NDP says it has an uncensored version of one report and comparing the two, has found that the "national security" deletions include the line: "Extrajudicial executions, disappearances, torture and detention without trial are all too common."

"By redacting just that one sentence, the government was able to cover up knowledge of extrajudicial killings and torture in Afghanistan," Dewar said, citing this as an example of overzealous censorship. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Cross torture worries?

- The International Red Cross met twice with senior Canadian officials in Kandahar to deliver veiled but insistent warnings about torture in Afghan jails a year before Canada acted to protect detainees. Details of the face-to-face meetings in 2006, outlined in uncensored memos examined by The Canadian Press, undermine the federal government's claims that diplomat Richard Colvin was a lone voice raising vague concerns about torture. A spokesman for the International Red Cross played down the face-to-face sessions with Canadian officials.

Winnipeg Flaherty talks job creation

JOHN WOODS/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jim Flaherty, minister of finance, speaks at the University of Winnipeg yesterday. He said the government is on track to create or maintain 220,000 jobs this year and next as part of its overall economic plan.

Harper delivers economic report

BEIJING Stephen Harper travelled half-way around the world but couldn't leave Canadian politics behind, choosing China as the place to unveil the government's fourth economic stimulus report card — a status update the Liberals dismissed as misleading.

The prime minister landed in Beijing yesterday and after a low-key arrival ceremony, released the update about six hours before Finance Minister Jim Flaherty was to repeat the exercise back home in Winnipeg. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Ottawa's economic update boasts of success on infrastructure and job creation, but how the Tories reached their numbers is a mystery. Scan this barcode for the full story.

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Neighbours worried about NB Power deal

N.S., Newfoundland premiers say they are protecting the future

The premiers of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland and Labrador have renewed their battle with New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham over the proposed sale of NB Power to Hydro-Quebec.

Danny Williams

Darrell Dexter and Danny Williams have written a letter to Graham making two requests.

They want Graham to finalize an agreement prior to completing the NB Power sale that would see New Brunswick build a transmission line to the Maine border, separate from the power grid that currently exists.

They also want Graham to ensure that applications to transmit power through New Brunswick will be handled under existing rules until agreements are offered to Newfoundland's energy company or other Atlantic companies before the NB Power sale is complete.

Williams says he does not believe in Graham's past assertions that Newfoundland or other provinces don't need written guarantees to ship power through New Brunswick to the United States in the future.

"The previous statements made by the premier of New Brunswick are not sufficient to give us confidence that reliable open access will be available across New Brunswick to the Maine border after the deal with Quebec is consummated," Williams said in a joint statement with Dexter yesterday.

"This situation requires clear and explicit clarification and certainty."

Dexter said he and Williams were looking out for Atlantic Canada's future interests.

"We are seeking assurances that the best interests of Nova Scotia and the best opportunities for our region are protected," Dexter said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More family doctors needed, report says

HEALTH Increasing the number of practising physicians is key to reaching a goal that would see nearly all Canadians with their own family doctor by 2012, according to a new report.

The report entitled "The Wait Starts Here" was released yesterday by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Canadian Medical Association, who formed the Primary Care Wait Time Partnership to explore these issues.

Increasing the capacity of existing family physicians is also cited as a way to reach the target. The partnership's goal is for 95 per cent of Canadians in all communities to have their own family doctor within the next two years.

An Ipsos-Reid poll of more than 1,000 adults conducted for the CMA found that roughly 17 per cent of respondents didn't have a family doctor. Among the 82 per cent that did, 51 per cent were concerned about the length of time it takes to get an appointment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

KAZEMI The Iranian government defended itself through a Montreal law firm in a $17-million civil suit launched by the estate and family of Montreal photojournalist Zahra Kazemi over her detention, torture and slaying.

BABIES A Tory member of the New Brunswick legislature has apologized for writing on his Facebook page that women should make more babies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Microsoft releases updated Bing Maps service

Microsoft Corp. is releasing an updated version of its mapping service with street-level views and new "apps" that tack on tweets, traffic and other location-specific data. The new version of Bing Maps was released yesterday in a "beta" test mode. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Party crashers not invited: Emails

Copies of emails between the White House party crashers and a Pentagon official undermine their claims that they were invited to U.S. President Barack Obama's first state dinner. Tareq and Michaele Salahi, left, pressed the friendly Pentagon aide for four days to score tickets to the big event in honour of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. By their own admission in the emails, they showed up at the White House gates at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 without an invitation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

India **Gas disaster**

ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A victim of the Bhopal gas disaster shouts yesterday during a torch procession towards the abandoned Union Carbide factory on the eve of 25th anniversary of the disaster, in Bhopal, India. The disaster killed about 4,000 people on Dec. 3, 1984.

Taliban rebuff troop surge in Afghanistan

The Taliban rebuffed President Barack Obama's new war plan for Afghanistan yesterday, saying his strategy to send 30,000 new troops will only lead to more American casualties.

If conditions are right, Obama said U.S. forces could begin leaving Afghanistan in 18 months. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in the country, said the Afghan government and its international partners should use the coming year-and-a-half to convince the Taliban they can't win and offer militants a way to quit "with dignity."

In a statement, the Taliban said the Obama administration's plan was "no solution for the problems of Afghanistan" and would give insurgents an opportunity "to increase their attacks and shake the American economy, which is already facing crisis."

Obama only set a tentative pullout date for July 2011 to lessen the sensitivities of Afghans about the troop buildup and decrease the American public's opposition to the war, the Taliban statement said.

"This stratagem will not pay off," it said, adding the surge will lead to increased deaths of U.S. troops. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Experts point to a lack of credibility and political will for the U.S. as reasons for Europe's tepid response to the surge plan. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Student's lawyer in murder trial breaks down in courtroom

ITALY A defence lawyer for a student accused of killing her British roommate broke down after urging the court to give his client back her life. But a prosecutor called the accused a compressed spring who exploded the night of the murder.

Amanda Knox and her ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito are being tried in Perugia for the 2007 slaying of Meredith Kercher.

Luciano Ghirga, one of Knox's lawyers, insisted in court that Knox was the victim of a "mechanism that crushed her." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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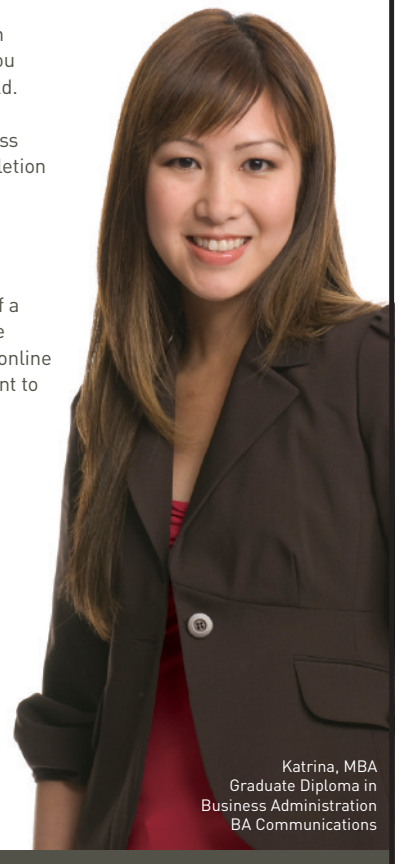

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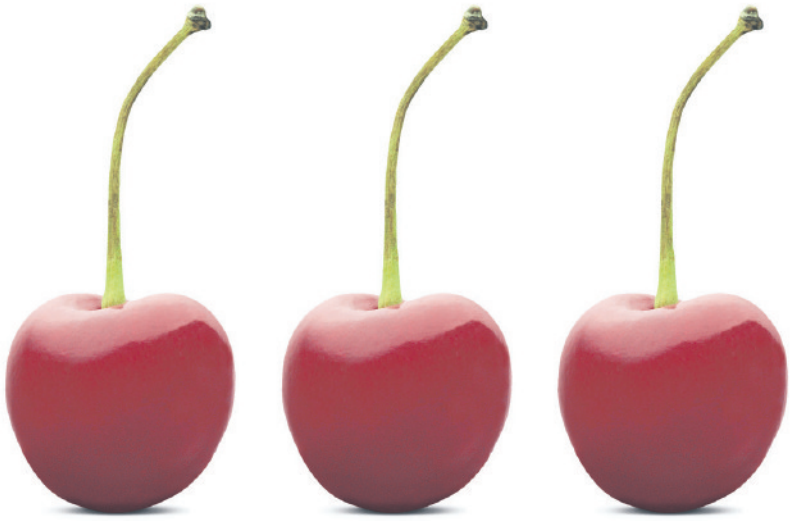

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U.S. approves funding for embryonic stem cell study

A new era in embryonic stem cell research arrived as the U.S. government approved 13 batches of the master cells for a study using taxpayer dollars, with dozens more in the pipeline. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Billionaire's body returned

A coffin containing the body of an Austrian billionaire has been returned to his family, more than a year after it was stolen from a graveyard by thieves who blackmailed the relatives for $150,000, police said yesterday.

It also emerged that criminals from Hungary and Romania were involved in the crime, and that private investigators and security companies had been involved in the search for the coffin without telling police.

"This is a large case of blackmail that was carried out very professionally, although it involved a rather unusual instrument — a coffin," said Ernst Geiger, the organized crime chief at Austria's equivalent of FBI.

The coffin and Austrian billionaire Friedrich Karl Flick's body were returned to Flick's relatives Tuesday.

Budapest police chief Gabor Toth told reporters that private detectives hired by the Flick family had found the coffin last month in Budapest, even as the police in Hungary and Austria were still investigating the crime. Private investigators from Austria, Ukraine and Hungary had been involved in the search, without informing police of that, Toth said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flick

- The remains of Austrian billionaire Friedrich Karl Flick were stolen from a cemetery in Velden, southern Austria, in November 2008.

Babysitter gets 125 years in prison

COURTS A U.S. babysitter convicted of videotaping herself performing sex acts with children as young as 2 months old has been sentenced to 125 years in prison.

Samantha Light, 26, last month pleaded guilty to three felony counts of child molesting in circuit court in Indiana.

During sentencing yesterday, Light apologized and said she had been coerced by her boyfriend. She said while she appeared happy on the video tape she had felt like she "was dying inside."

Light and her boyfriend, Stephen E. Quick II, have been jailed since March.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colombia **Elite training**

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police officer attends a training course in San Luis, Colombia yesterday. Troops from 10 different countries are taking part in a course with Colombia's National Police's elite assault forces.

News in brief

INTERNET A study suggests spammers used the economy, swine flu, the death of Michael Jackson and hype over Twitter to lure victims into scams. Symantec, a maker of computer security software, says it analyzed more than 40 trillion spam messages in the last 12 months. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
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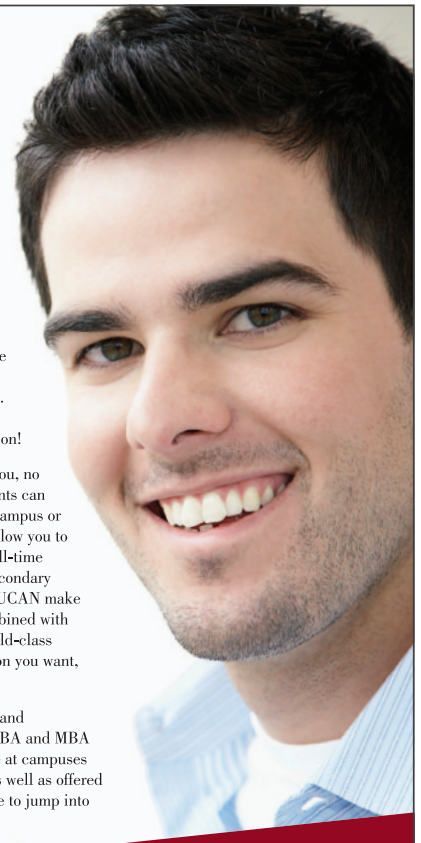
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Hunt for space aliens costs school worker his job
A former Arizona school district employee is accused of using school computers to find space aliens, costing the worker his job and the district more than $1 million. A computer program uses Internet-connected computers worldwide to analyse radio telescope data. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mind power controls a robotic hand

An Italian who lost his left forearm in a car crash has been given a chance of new life — because of mind control.

The man has been successfully linked to a robotic hand, allowing him to feel sensations in the artificial limb and control it with his thoughts, scientists said yesterday.

During a one-month experiment conducted last year, 26-year-old Pierpaolo Petruzziello felt like his lost arm had grown back again, although he was only controlling a robotic hand that was not even attached to his body.

"It's a matter of mind, of concentration," Petruzziello said.

The Italy-based scientists say this was the first time a patient has been able to make such complex movements using his mind to control a biomechanic hand.

The scientists said in Rome that electrodes were implanted into the nerves located in what remained of Petruzziello's left arm.

The prosthetic was not implanted on the patient, only connected through the electrodes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keep burqas, France told

FRANCE Muslim scholar Tariq Ramadan acknowledged yesterday that women can be forced to wear head-to-toe Islamic garments such as burqas, but he insisted France should not ban them.

The often provocative Geneva-born university professor told a French parliamentary commission looking into the body-length garments that it is examining a "scarecrow" issue that masks broader troubles of integration among Muslims in France.

The National Assembly panel is studying a marginal but growing trend of wearing full face-and-body veils, such as the burqa and niqab, open only at slits for the eyes.

It has been conducting hearings intermittently since September.

The panel, which was created in June, could recommend a ban of the gowns in public. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has said the robes make "prisoners" out of women and won't ever be welcome in the country.

France is home to western Europe's largest population of Muslims — estimated at more than 5 million, most from former French colonies in north Africa. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

TERRORISM A North Caucasus Muslim rebel group has claimed responsibility for last week's Russian train bombing that killed 26 people, according to a website sympathetic to the militants. The website said the attack was carried out on behalf of Doku Umarov, a Chechen separatist and one of Russia's most wanted rebels. Government officials were among the 26 killed on the 14-car Nevsky Express. Scores of people were injured.

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Comment

Drawing relationship battle lines

One of my superpowers is that I am an excellent judge of character. It doesn't take long for me to decipher whether someone is a good-hearted and decent soul or if they should be avoided at all costs. This is as true for potential friends as it is potential dates.

Unfortunately, not everyone shares this superpower. And sometimes, wonderful people get romantically involved with the deeply unworthy. Over the years, I have regrettably had several pals pair up with arrogant, ignorant, ambition-free jerk festivals.

It's a tricky position to be in, hating the partner of a friend. Faking enthusiasm and friendliness when you're forced to share the same airspace gets old. It's not easy, biting your tongue until it bleeds.

Several years ago, I met a close friend's boyfriend for the first time. He picked us up in his car and promptly sparked a joint behind the wheel. He later yelled at an elderly relative, accusing her of stealing his liquor.

It was a banner Friday night.

My friend is no longer with this boy. This was a decision she made on her own. It was not influenced by the fact that her family/friends were clearly not fans.

When people fall in love, the flaws of their partners tend to be muted because they are thoroughly wrapped up in a magical world of puppies and kittens and butterflies.

It's a huge risk to let a friend know that you don't approve of their significant other. For some, anyone who does not love their lover becomes The Enemy. Logic and emotion are like oil and water. Speaking up about your reservations is a quick and easy way to make a friendship super awkward. Or end it.

For some, dating someone sub-par is preferable to being single. It's like a sad game of musical chairs; people scrambling to grab the nearest available chair, utterly terrified of being the one left standing.

But those with strong senses of self are fine to stand for a few rounds. Why rush to sit in a crappy chair that will give you splinters and quite possibly collapse?

If your particular "chair" is the product of shoddy craftsmanship, chuck it to the curb. Because somewhere, there is a kick-ass heated orthopedic chair with a built-in massage mechanism and a lifetime guarantee that's got your name on it.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.

Views

Divorce sucks – but it doesn't have to

I remember years ago a very wise man telling me, "Divorce is all some people have to look forward to."

At the time, I thought divorce was sad. It was also before I'd been married and divorced. The actual truth about divorce as Mary Jo Eustace, author of Divorce Sucks, whose husband (Dean somebody) was stolen away by actress Tori Spelling, knows is that it can be the best thing to happen to you.

I originally picked up her book hoping it would be a dirt-filled slag-fest and I could feed my inner gossip, which would in turn feed my outer one. No bitter pill in Eustace's book though. Rather, a hilarious guide helping divorced, specifically dumped women, get through the trauma, or as Eustace calls it, a "tsunami" of divorce. This is the pep talk they need, not therapists enabling the moaning and groaning for years.

Eustace was initially caught off guard when her husband de-camped. In retrospect she realized divorce had been imminent when she examined her marriage. That's what happens when most of us do. Husband not interested in sex? He hates you. You cringe at the sound of him breathing or eating cereal. You hate him.

However, some people don't have the guts to pull the plug. When women like Spelling come along, they do us a favour. What you get is to be yourself again and a second chance at life. As Eustace says, it's a "reintroduction to yourself." In other words, it's psychological botox, a good hair day and a laxative that actually works, all rolled up in one.

While Eustace was unfortunate enough to have her story told in all of the gossip magazines and on TV, she was also lucky enough to get divorced in six months — which could never happen in Canada.

She encourages women to depend on themselves, which means establishing fair custody and child support as well as sticking up for themselves in terms of spousal support. She reminds women to run their personal lives as businesses of which they are now the CEO.

And, finally, she counsels them to enjoy themselves. If marriage is a lifetime commitment (or for some a life sentence) but you got fired, embrace your new life. Says Eustace, "You're no longer on a day pass. This is your life and you're in charge."

Georgie Binks is a Toronto freelance writer who writes about gender and relationships; georgiebinks@rogers.com

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Canadian Tire money is getting a new coin. The famous multicoloured bills, considered by many as the country's unofficial second currency, is to be joined by a $1 piece for a limited time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

'Tiger Inc.' doing fine so far

While a shadow has been cast over Woods' empire, his sponsorships remain

He is Tiger Inc. Hear him roar.

Multimillion-dollar contracts. An estimated $100 million in endorsements per year. More than $92 million from PGA tournament wins. Ballooning PGA ticket sales and TV viewership.

Tiger Woods was, until now at least, a thoroughly unpolarizing sponge for corporate money who, according to Forbes magazine, is the first billion-dollar pro athlete in history.

The mysterious middle-of-the-night SUV crash last week has cast a shadow over this empire. And revealing yet vague confessions of "personal sins" and "letting my family down" have only fuelled interest in his private drama. Yet, so far at least, Woods's financial future remains unshaken. Although he may have bogeyed this crisis, his value to the world of pro golf remains immense, as shown by the near-universal anxiety over how long he will be out of commission. So far, at least, his many sponsors, including Nike, Gillette and Gatorade, are standing by him.

"He is arguably the most famous and attractive celebrity endorser in the world today."
Marc Ganis, Sportscorp

"None have left him. I don't expect any to leave him. I don't expect it to adversely affect any deals he may be negotiating," said Marc Ganis, president of Sportscorp, a sports business consulting firm. "He is arguably the most famous and attractive celebrity endorser in the world today. This incident has tarnished (that) only a bit."

CHRIS CARLSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Tiger Woods, right, and his wife, Elin Nordegren.

Of course, sports marketing experts were cautious enough to note that the story, hitherto vague, could shift and become more lurid and embarrassing as details emerge.

"Things probably will change, as this story continues to be played out," said Rick Burton, a professor at Syracuse University who specializes in sports marketing. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Google makes concession to appease angry media industry

INTERNET Google Inc. is allowing publishers of paid content to limit the number of free news articles accessed by people using its Internet search engine, a concession to an increasingly disgruntled media industry.

There has been mounting criticism of Google's practices from media publishers — most notably News Corp. chairman and chief executive Rupert Murdoch — that argue the company is profiting from online news pages. In an official blog posted yesterday, Josh Cohen, Google's senior business product manager, said the company had updated its First Click Free program so publishers can limit users to viewing no more than five articles a day without registering or subscribing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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North America's economic recovery gains traction after big jumps in consumer spending and factory production. Scan this barcode for the full story.

Business in brief

ENERGY Talisman Energy Inc., a Calgary-based company that produces oil and gas around the globe, is laying off 220 workers in its North American natural gas business. A spokeswoman said the job losses amount to 15 per cent of the company's North American workforce. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Richmond Centre

UFC headed to Australia
The UFC is going Down Under, the mixed martial arts organization confirmed yesterday. UFC 110 is scheduled for Feb. 21 at the Acer Arena in Sydney. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Iverson back in Philly

Allen Iverson is rejoining the Philadelphia 76ers. Sixers president Ed Stefanski announced the signing yesterday on the team's website. Iverson is expected to make his debut Monday at home against the Denver Nuggets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Luongo beats Brodeur

NHL

Canucks 5 Devils 2

AT

Henrik and Daniel Sedin had a hand in three first-period goals, and Roberto Luongo made 27 saves as the Vancouver Canucks beat the New Jersey Devils 5-2 yesterday.

Alex Burrows, Sami Salo, Daniel Sedin, Alexander Elder and Jannik Hansen had goals for the Canucks, who won for the fifth time in seven games. Luongo topped New Jersey's Martin Brodeur in a matchup of likely Canadian goalies when the Olympic Games are held in Vancouver in February. They are competing for the starting job on the team.

Henrik Sedin had assists on Vancouver's first two goals.

Niclas Bergfors and Travis Zajac scored for the Devils, who had won three straight and six in a row at home.

After a tentative opening five minutes, the tempo turned fast and furious with the Canucks leading 3-2 after one period.

It was all Vancouver early, with the Sedin twins combining for four points as the Canucks jumped out to a 3-0 lead. It marked the 70th time both of the Sedins recorded multiple points in an NHL game.

Burrows got the Canucks rolling with his third goal in four games. Daniel Sedin flipped a shot on net that Burrows deflected. Salo got the second Canucks goal with a slap shot from the right point at 10:03.

The Canucks caught the Devils in a line change, leaving Daniel Sedin wide open in the left circle to rip a shot past Brodeur at 12:32.

Luongo came up especially strong during the third period, when the Devils had a 5-on-3 powerplay advantage for 1:06. He turned away Zajac and Patrik Elias, preserving the Canucks' 5-2 advantage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

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RICH SCHULTZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Jersey Devil Zach Parise skates past Vancouver Canuck Sami Salo (6) as he is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal against the Devils.

Man U tops Arsenal
Manchester City defeated Arsenal 3-0 to earn a meeting with defending champion Manchester United in the League Cup semifinals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

sports 17

Woods' crash caused $3,200 in damage

Report on incident lists destroyed property

Tiger Woods caused $3,200 US in property damage, wasn't wearing a seatbelt and was driving erratically outside his Florida home before crashing into a tree, according to a final report released yesterday.

The six-page report only describes the accident and does not include statements from Woods, his wife, Elin Nordegren, or witnesses. It also included 105 photos of the accident scene.

The report's release came just hours after the world's No. 1 golfer put out a statement saying he had let his family down with "transgressions" he regrets "with all of my heart."The final accident report shows Woods didn't just hit a fire hydrant and tree.

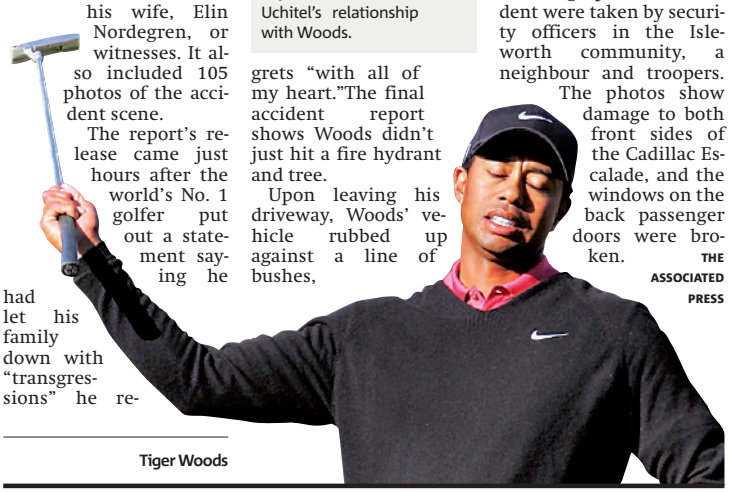
Upon leaving his driveway, Woods' vehicle rubbed up against a line of bushes, crossed over a curb, onto a grass median and into a row of hedges before swerving left into the hydrant and crashing into the tree, an illustration in the report shows. Woods' vehicle was travelling 30 m.p.h. (48 km/h) in a 25 m.p.h. (40 km/h) zone. Damage to the SUV was estimated at $8,000.

Photographs of the accident were taken by security officers in the Isleworth community, a neighbour and troopers. The photos show damage to both front sides of the Cadillac Escalade, and the windows on the back passenger doors were broken. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News conference

- A New York woman who has denied having an affair with Tiger Woods has scheduled a news conference with her lawyer today in Los Angeles.

Lawyer Gloria Allred said yesterday that she will make a statement today about Rachel Uchitel's relationship with Woods.



Tiger Woods

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Get ready for more post-season baseball games — and fewer days off. Players would like to see the first round of playoffs expand to best-of-seven when their next labour contract starts in 2012, Michael Weiner said yesterday in his first news conference since replacing Donald Fehr as the union head.

SOCCER FIFA rejected the use of extra match officials at next year's World Cup yesterday despite the uproar over Thierry Henry's handball that helped France qualify at the expense of Ireland. FIFA president Sepp Blatter said there are plans to introduce more match officials or technology at a later stage.

NHL The Montreal Canadiens dealt centre Kyle Chipchura to the Anaheim Ducks yesterday in exchange for a fourth-round draft pick in 2011. Chipchura, a first-round pick of the Canadiens in 2004, has been held pointless in 19 games this season. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
VANCOUVER 5 New Jersey 2
Boston 4 Tampa Bay 1
Florida 6 Colorado 5 (SO)
Minnesota 5 Nashville 4 (OT)

TODAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Buffalo
VANCOUVER at Philadelphia
Florida at Washington
N.Y. Islanders at Atlanta
Toronto at Columbus
Colorado at Pittsburgh
Edmonton at Detroit
Anaheim at Dallas
Calgary at Phoenix
Ottawa at Los Angeles
St. Louis at San Jose

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 146 Toronto 115
Chicago 92 Detroit 85
Cleveland 107 Phoenix 90
Dallas 117 New Jersey 101
Memphis 97 Minnesota 95
Oklahoma City 117 Philadelphia 106
Orlando 118 New York 104
Washington 104 Milwaukee 102
Indiana at Sacramento
Houston at L.A. Clippers

TODAY'S GAMES
Boston at San Antonio
Houston at Golden State
Miami at Denver

For scores of late games, visit metronews.ca/sports

TEMPORARY SECURITY GUARDS
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Fiji..... 24.9¢ Ghana.....9.9¢ Greece.....2.9¢ Guatemala.... 10.9¢ Guyana.....27.9¢ Honduras.....15.9¢ Iraq from ..... 4.9¢ Israel.....2.9¢ Italy..... .2.9¢ Russia from ..... 2.9¢ Saudi Arabia from 3.9¢ South Korea.. 2.9¢ Sri Lanka.....11.9¢ Trinidad..... 4.9¢ U.A.E.....16.9¢
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Crowd-pleasing gifts
PC Mini Chocolate Coated Candy, $6 for 15 pieces, is made with a peppermint-flavoured cheesecake filling and surrounded by dark chocolate. For more, go to, pc.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

HOLIDAY

Shopping Guide

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Get your music on

These MP3-related gifts will keep the beat going

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

The Pioneer iPod Digital Video System is $499, while the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic Smartphone and MP3 Player, below left, is $199.99.

You love having your music at your fingertips' reach, so here are some of Metro's picks for MP3-related gizmos that will keep the beat going this holiday season:

Sirius Stiletto 2 satellite radio & MP3 player
$299.95 + subscription fee

The Sirius Stiletto 2 satellite radio, below, streams music from more than 120 channels.

Combining the portable practicality of an MP3 player with the vast possibilities of satellite radio, the Sirius Stiletto 2 is one heck of a cool gadget. The small and sleek player streams music from more than 120 commercial-free music channels broadcast by Sirius' satellites and can even record up to 100 hours of content so you can listen to your favourite channel or commentator when you have time (or aren't in the office when the censor-free commentary starts to fly). The Stiletto also plays MP3s and WMA files so you can keep your music collection with you for those times you just have to hear We Are The Champions one more time. An optional home and car dock can be picked up for the player as well. For people already subscribed to Sirius, the Stiletto 2 is a no-brainer and for the rest, it makes a very solid case for jumping on the bandwagon.

These Panasonic Ergofit Noise Isolating Earbuds are available in three sizes and come in a variety of colours, including blue, green and purple.

Nokia 5800 XpressMusic Smartphone & MP3 player
$199.99 on select three-year plans with Rogers

While it's technically a phone first, the Nokia 5800 XpressMusic is so well geared towards playing music that it outshines a large number of MP3-only players on the market. The built-in stereo speakers that provide surprisingly good — and loud — external sound should be the first tip-off that this gadget is a lot more than your average MP3-capable phone. The 5800 features a touch screen and memory capacity for MicroSD cards up to 16 gigabytes in size, plenty of space to load up on your favourite songs. Nokia has purportedly shipped almost 10 million of these things in the year since it came out and with good reason — it's a great music player with unique appeal that still works as a solid phone.

Panasonic Ergofit Noise Isolating Earbuds
$29.99

Earbud headphones are one of the hardest components to get right because fit, sound quality and price always seem to trample over each other along the way. That's what makes the Panasonic Ergofit Noise Isolating Earbuds such a standout — they manage to hit all three points very effectively. Available in three sizes (S, M, L) for varied ear shapes and in a requisite variety of colours, the Ergofit buds are also attached to a practical tangle-free cord slider. Panasonic touts the buds as providing high-quality sound performance due to "virtual cavity technology," something that's probably not nearly as vulgar as it sounds. While there are plenty of good-quality buds that are expensive, and many bad-quality ones on the cheap, these little guys are, for once, the right quality at the right price.

Pioneer iPod Digital Video System
$499

Not for the weak of wallet or faint of heart, Pioneer's powerful iPod docking station is the iPod dock to end all other iPod docks. While it's certainly not cheap, this high-end offering will let you go beyond simply pumping up the volume on your iPod's music playback by turning your iPod into the primary entertainment device in your home. Besides the great sound quality from the 2.1 channel full range speaker system with subwoofer, the station can also be connected to an LCD or Plasma TV to share movies and photos stored on your iPod. You can even transmit music to the station wirelessly from your iPod as well, meaning you can play DJ from any room in your home. Pioneer has a great reputation for sound quality and the iPod Digital Video System does not disappoint.

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everyone on your list.

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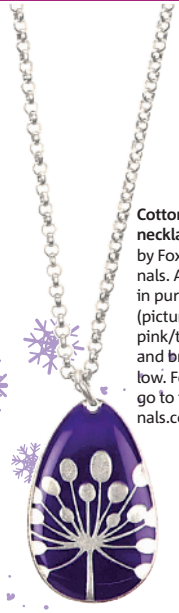
Home for the holidays
Dress up any space with these Holiday Home holiday lotion pumps, $9.99-$12.99. Available at Home Outfitters, homeoutfitters.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Merry mauve

Satin tie neck dress, $34.50, at Old Navy. For more, go to oldnavy.ca.



Cotton necklace, $32, by Foxy Originals. Available in purple/grey (pictured), pink/turquoise, and brown/yellow. For more, go to foxyoriginals.com.

Pebble necklace, $48, by Foxy Originals. Available in purple (pictured), blue and black. For more, go to foxyoriginals.com.

HAWAI RING
These three trendy rings can be stacked or worn one at a time! One ring features the "Evil Eye," which brings good luck, making it the perfect good luck charm.
$150
Available at Swarovski stores across Canada.
swarovski.com

Purple sleeveless dress with rosette detail, $275, at select Melanie Lyne stores. For more, go to melanie-lyne.com or call 1-877-973-6090.

Leather gloves, $85, at Banana Republic. For more, go to bananarepublic.ca.

Euphoria eau de toilette spray by Calvin Klein, $68 for 50 mL or $89 for 100 mL. Available in department and drug stores across Canada. The larger size is only available in department stores. For more, go to coty.com.

Satin jewel clutch, $110, at Banana Republic. For more, go to bananarepublic.ca.

Striped sweater booties, $22.50, at Old Navy. For more, go to oldnavy.ca.

GOSH Mystery Night nail lacquer, $6 each, available at Shoppers Drug Mart. For more, go to shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Berry merry purple shoes by Jessica, $49.99, at Sears. For more, go to sears.ca.

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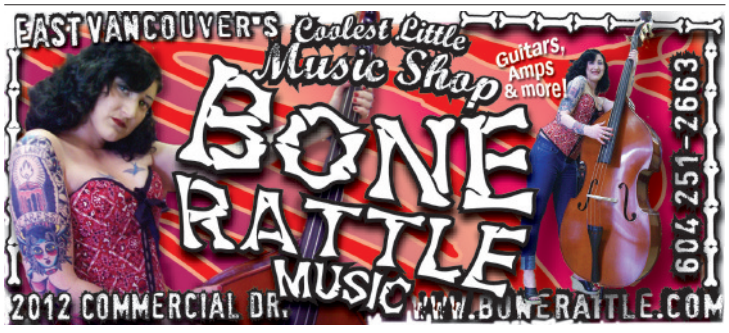
» 9 out of 10 approved



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Infuse the holidays with Seven Points of Balance by Aveda, $97.50, which includes all seven Chakras and a Chakra ritual card. For store locations, call 1-800-689-1066 or visit aveda.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Season's eatings

Green & Black's Organic Miniature Bar Collection, $17.29. Includes 12 miniature 15g chocolate bars. For more, go to greenandblacks.com.

Retro candy, $4.99-$6.99 each, at HomeSense. For more, 1-866-466-3707 or visit homesense.ca.

Cadbury Caramilk Fondue Set, $19.95; **Cadbury Crunchie Fondue Set**, $19.95; and **Fondue Fillers**, $9.95 each. Available at Walmart, Kitchen Stuff Plus, Blockbuster, Stokes, Giant Tiger, and other select retailers across Canada. For more, go to canada.cadbury.com.

Candy coal, $3.99, at Winners. For more, call 1-877-946-6877 or visit winners.ca.

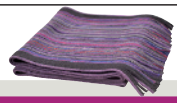
SAXON DRINKING CHOCOLATE
This drinking chocolate, available in 7 oz. keepsake tins, will make 8-10 servings. Available in Belgian Dark, Eggnog and Peppermint Flavours.
$29.95 EACH
Available at Indigo and Chapters stores across Canada.

Tim Hortons Old-Fashioned Butter Fudge, $4.95, and **Tim Hortons Old-Fashioned Maple Fudge**, $4.95. Each box contains 10 individually wrapped pieces. Available at participating Tim Hortons restaurants across Canada.

Le Chocolat Slabs, $4.99 each. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart, shoppersdrugmart.ca.

Hammond's ribbon candy, $11.99, is hand-made. Available at Indigo and Chapters stores across Canada.

Cocoa Trio, $10.95, at Starbucks. This trio of red tins is filled with three different flavours of all-natural cocoa: Classic Hot Cocoa, Peppermint Cocoa and Salted Caramel Cocoa. Available at participating Starbucks shops across Canada.



Wrap him up
BOSS black stripe scarf, $70, at Harry Rosen. For more, go to harryrosen.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Medicine for Aminata
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Holiday Shopping Guide

Jingles to make the holidays merrier

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

If you're one of the many Christmas-loving music fan out there, fall must be your favourite season of the year.

Besides many big-named artists putting out albums before the New Year, a sundry of Christmas and holiday discs also make their way into stores. Here's a list of some of the best Xmas records of 2009:

Sting
If On A Winter's Night

A word of warning: Sting's winter-themed record isn't meant for your Christmas Eve gathering with the family. There are no sunny holiday tunes, or cuddle-by-the-file ballads — instead it's a very serious song set of eerie lullabies and carols from the British Isles. The tunes are filled with haunting strings — violins, harps and mandolins — Gaelic words (and English ones too) and plenty of hymnal arrangements. It's engaging, thought provoking and, may be the most interesting holiday disc of the bunch.

Bob Dylan:
Christmas in the Heart

When most people found out Bob Dylan was tackling a Christmas album, the shock was palatable. After all, he's a legendary folk singer who's linked more with 60s protesters than Santa's elves. But the disc is actually quite good. Sure, it's definitely strange — Little Drummer Boy doesn't have the same elegance when Dylan's gravely voice gets a hold of it — but how awesome is it to hear this legend sing a rollicking version of Here Comes Santa Claus? A stocking stuffer for sure.

Various Artists
A Very Special Christmas 7

A Very Special Christmas was first introduced 22 years ago and it's still going strong. Its seventh version will appeal to the youngsters in your family — tween-oriented superstars like Miley Cyrus, Ashley Tisdale and Vanessa Hudgens all contribute to the disc. While some performers may be a bit surprising, i.e. Gossip Girl's Leighton Meester, the songs are all familiar. Sean Kingston's Little Drummer Boy, Cyrus' Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree and Carrie Underwood's Hark! The Herald Angels Sing are standouts.

Jackson 5
Ultimate Christmas Collection

It's no surprise that the Jackson clan wants to continue selling records in the wake of Michael's death. Fortunately, this isn't just a quickly culled together disc. It was

originally released in the '70s and features funky versions of a number of Christmas classics. The soulful take on Santa Claus is Coming to Town is especially memorable, while the dance-ready rendition of Up in the Housetop should get your whole family gathering on their feet. Bonus tracks include the MJ tune Little Christmas Tree, season greetings from Michael, Tito, Jermaine and Jackie and other

stripped down remixes.

Beach Boys
Christmas Harmonies

The Beach Boys are best known for their fun in the sun, but with their rich harmonies and penchant for sleigh bells, it's a wonder they weren't a winter band. This release combines two of their holiday discs — The Beach Boys' Christmas Album and Merry Chrsitmas from the Beach Boys. There are standards here — Santa Claus is Coming to Town, I'll be Home for Christmas — but there's plenty of original tracks as well. The warm Little Saint Nick is probably their most famous.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Relive Michael Jackson's youth with the Jackson 5 Ultimate Christmas Collection.

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Holiday Shopping Guide

Good cheer

Limited edition 2009 Absolut vodka holiday bottle, $23.95-$27.49 for 750 mL (SRP) in select provinces. For more, go to absolut.ca.

Red Mosaic Cocktail Shaker, $29.95, and **Red Mosaic Champagne Bucket,** $36.95, at Pier 1 Imports. For more, go to pier1.ca.

Wolf Blass Yellow Label Cabernet Sauvignon, $16.45 SRP (for 750 mL). Available at liquor stores across Canada. For more, go to wolfblass.com.

MERRY CHERRY RECIPE, WITH SKYY VODKA
1 oz. Skyy Vodka
1 oz. cherry juice
1/2 oz. Carolanns Irish Cream
1/2 oz. Godiva White Chocolate Liqueur
Combine all ingredients in a tall mixing glass. Add ice and shake vigorously. Strain into a martini glass. Rim glass with coconut shavings.
SKYY VODKA, $24.95 (for 750 mL) SRP
Available at liquor stores across Canada.
skyy.com

Moët & Chandon Grand Vintage 2000, $83.95 SRP. Available at participating stores across Canada.

Cocktail mixers, $7.99 each, at HomeSense. For more, call 1-866-466-3707 or visit homesense.ca

Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame, $238.95 SRP, left, and **Veuve Clicquot Ice Jacket,** $64.95 SRP. Available at participating stores across Canada.

PC Rich & Creamy Chocolate Egg Nog, $3 for 1L bottle, and **PC Naturally Flavoured Mulled Apple Cider Sparkling Soda,** $1 for 2L bottle or 12 x 355 mL cans. Go to pc.ca for more.

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SAMSUNG Electric Dryer - Models 79854/79856/79878 - **Original $999.99**
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FRIGIDAIRE Gallery Tall Tub Dishwasher - Model 98672 - **Original $688.99**
SALE $548.94 - 1 ONLY

8 WHIRLPOOL Duet Electric Dryer - Model 72742 - **Original $999.99**
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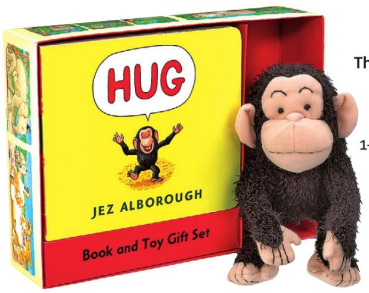
Secret Santa
Mr. Potato Head Santa Spud, $9.99, comes with a hat, shoes, and a beard with lips. Available at major retailers. Go to hasbro.com for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

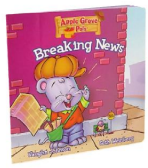
Toddler toys

Blocksters Blockimals, $19.99, features a farm or jungle animal inside. Available at major retailers across Canada, including Walmart, Zellers and Toys R Us.

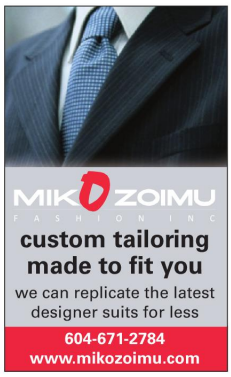


The Hug Book and Toy Set, $9.99 at Winners. For more, call 1-877-946-6877 or visit winners.ca.

Playskool Step Start Walk 'N Ride, $34.99, is a walker that converts to a ride-on toy.

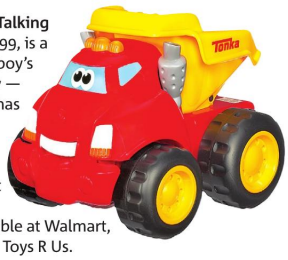


Apple Grove Pals storybooks, $9.99-$34.99, come with an assortment of pals. For more, go to littletikes.com.



Puzzle Block Set, $9.99 at HomeSense. For more, call 1-866-466-3707 or visit homesense.ca.

Chuck My Talking Truck, $44.99, is a preschool boy's best buddy — he always has something to say, such as, "We've got work to do!" Available at Walmart, Zellers and Toys R Us.



Wooden Toy Chest, $49.99, at HomeSense. For more, call 1-866-466-3707 or visit homesense.ca.

Stocking stuffer
This Father Frost Soap, which is great for vegans too, is $7.95 per 100g. Available at LUSH, 1-866-644-5874, lush.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Holiday Shopping Guide

Creature comforts

Powermat Home & Office Mat, $99.99; and **Powermat Travel Mat,** $99.99, both by The Sharper Image. Works wirelessly to charge three to six devices — such as an iPod, Blackberry or handheld game — depending on the model. Available at The Source, Future Shop, Best Buy and London Drugs.

Thule Seat Organizer, $17.99, keeps everything within reach. Available at Canadian Tire, canadian tire.ca.

Yada Visor-Mounted Bluetooth Speakerphone, $129.99, features a text to speech system that announces incoming calls so the driver can determine whether to answer a call without taking their eyes off the road. Available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Homemedics Shiatsu massage chair pad, $127.99, at Home Outfitters. For more, go to homeoutfitters.com.

Equip iPod Docking Station, $64.99, at Shoppers Drug Mart. For more, go to shoppersdrugmart.ca.

ObusForme Performance Driver's Seat Cushion, $79.99, features back support technology that conforms to your back's natural curvature, as well as eight massage motors and a seat heater. Available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

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Style

Fashion fix-it kit

Avert fashion disasters at any black tie affair with My Tagalongs' Little Black Distress Kit. It contains two sponges for removing deodorant stains, one pair of stay-up stockings, a set of four on-the-go, individually-wrapped wipes: makeup, nail, deodorant, personal care and a pair of foot cushions to help her put her best foot forward. The LBD Kit retails for $25 and is available on mytagalongs.com at the Bay and specialty boutiques across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Pretty party frocks

Dresses go colourful, shimmery and short this holiday season

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

Strapless, draped or tunic, at the knee or shorter, pretty party frocks claim the after-five spotlight this holiday season.

Colour makes a bold festive statement. Vibrant shades of pink, purple, red, orange and yellow are cheerful antidotes to corporate dressing as well as early nightfall. "At the moment there's no hotter colour than blue," notes fashion stylist Afiya Francisco (TheStyleHouse.ca), who appears regularly on Breakfast Television and CityLine to talk chic. "Stella McCartney, Balmain and Ungaro all showed different shades of this hue."

Rich fabrics such as velvet and brocade are event appropriate, as well as shimmering silky textures. Sequins in particular are enjoying quite the renaissance — nothing says shindig more than sparkle and shine. And of course the trusty little black dress is still a staple, but it's about more than basic black — amp up the style with architectural details such as artful and unusual pleating and draping, says Francisco.

Styling Tips

Cocktail attire this season is undeniably feminine — but not dainty. Anchor flirty dresses with shoes of consequence — ankle booties, platform pumps or strappy platform sandals — to keep the look modern. Big, statement jewelry also adds impact, especially if you opt for an LBD rather than a jewel-toned ensemble.

Keep proportions in mind when it comes to the right fit. Bustier cuts add curve appeal to small frames; v-necklines, wrap waists, shoulder straps and one-shoulder styles complement the more generously endowed. Emphasize the smallest part of your torso, and go for hems that hit the knees or just above, adds Francisco.

Read more on page 28 ››

Blue is hot this holiday season

Moonscape dress (French Connection $198).

Black sleeveless ruffle front dress (Jacob, $89).

Blue jersey bubble dress (Dynamite, $32.90).

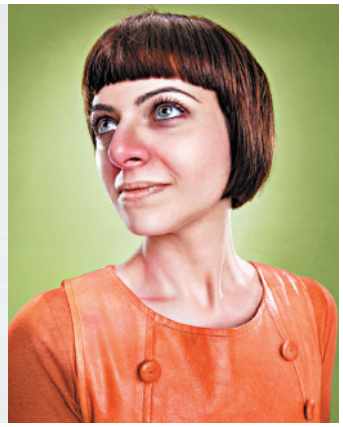
One shoulder red dress with brooch, $149.95; gem cuff, $75; fringe earrings, $39.95. Available at Le Chateau stores across Canada.

Blue strapless cocktail dress (H&M,$59.95).

Magenta sleeveless v-neck short taffeta dress, $235; loop earrings with faceted beads, $24; fireball stretch ring, $18. Items available at select Melanie Lyne stores. Call 1-877-973-6090 or visit melanielyne.com

FIGHT ON, BRAVE SOUL.
GET THROUGH THE SEASON HALLS

For tips to help you stay well during cold & flu season, visit gethalls.ca.
For the temporary relief of sore throat, cough and nasal congestion. Always read and follow the directions for use.



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the Bay

SPARKLING TOES!

Brilliant sequins trip the light fantastic

Open toe, Aldo ($90, aldoshoes.com)

Platform, Madden Girl ($55, at Town Shoes, townshoes.com)

Bow detail, Barbie by Town Shoes ($135, townshoes.com)

Satin heel, Bravo Browns ($118, brownssshoes.com)

Open toe, Town Shoes ($110, townshoes.com)

Metalic heel, Spring ($50, myspringshoes.com)

STUDIO ANDRÉ DOYON

To read these stories and more, visit: ellecanada.com

Dazzling babbles

Continued from page 26 ››

Accessories

Just like the season's dresses, its accessories are all about colour, sparkle and statement details. Embellished shoes and evening bags are everywhere, and according to Francisco, jewelry is huge. "Bold, oversize, chunky is the way to go — earrings, necklaces, cuffs and bracelets, just not all at once" she says. "Industrialized metals are also particularly relevant."

Try bold earrings and a bejewelled clutch with a vibrant dress — even a sequined one — or an in-your-face necklace and sparkle shoes if you're wearing black. Do wear a watch with more than one bangle, and on the other hand snag attention with your most fabulous cocktail ring.

JANINE FALCON/ FOR METRO CANADA

Chandelier earrings (Banana Republic, $50).

Statement ring from Aldo made with crystallized Swarovski elements ($60, aldoaccessories.com).

Pearl cuff, $28, rhinestone and pearl necklace, $38. Available at Jacob.

Dimpled Bracelet Cuff (Forever 21, $4.80).

Sequined clutch (aldoaccessories.com, $30).

Multi-coloured clutch (aldoaccessories.com , $50).

Swatch Dapper queen watch (Swatch boutiques or Swatch.com, $135).

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BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
5.59%	5.59%	5.84%	5.85%	4.19%	5.59%	5.59%	5.59%	3.89%

Rates may vary by province; check RateSupermarket.ca for the best rates in your area.

RateSupermarket.ca
Canada's rate comparison website

Metro Homes

Canadian Pride

Show some Canadian pride and hang a knitted buffalo check elk-embossed ornament on your tree this year. Wal-Mart, $2.96, walmart.ca.

EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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A steal for adventure seekers

Suite **Talk**

Prices have been slashed by as much as 50 per cent for mountainside condos at the Red Mountain Resort near Rossland.

The developer is slashing prices on the remaining 16 units of the 67-unit project to move on to other projects at Slalom Creek.

A 1,163-square-foot, two-bedroom home is now $267,490 after being originally priced at $509,900. A 1,434-square-foot, three-bedroom home is selling for $322,650, down from $609,900. All residences are completed and buyers can move in immediately.

Howard Katkov, president and CEO of Red Mountain Ventures, called it an opportunity to get "into the recreational real estate market with prices far below market value."

"Rossland, B.C., has quickly emerged as a top destination for adventure seekers and those who appreciate the finer aspects of living in a tight knit community of like-minded neighbours," Katkov said.

Slalom Creek is situated only a few metres from the main chairlift at Red Mountain and offers picturesque views of five nearby peaks. The concrete and steel structures include two- and three-bedroom homes designed to maximize space and featuring high-end finishes throughout. Design elements have been considered to conserve energy and to use environmentally friendly products.

Seen here are some shots from Red Mountain Resort.

The lowdown

- Interested purchasers may get more details on Slalom Creek by calling Jim Greene at 1-888-362-7007 or by visiting liveatred.com.

Building amenities include an exercise room, private lounge, cinema room, ski lockers and underground private parking.

Red Mountain Resort is located in the Kootenays, five minutes from downtown Rossland, B.C., and just ten minutes from the Canada/U.S. border.

FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Stock up on **stockings**

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

Knitted, stitched, beaded and glittered, this year hanging your stockings with care has never looked so pretty.

"Stockings are becoming nicer and nicer and more important to Christmas decor people are into decorating their homes (for the holidays) more than ever," says Ann Marie Favot, design editor for Style at Home. "From glitzy glam to more traditional red and white versions … with so many different types available, they can now match anybody's decor.

"The most interesting way I've seen them displayed was on the backs of dining room chairs. That way on Christmas morning when everyone sits down for breakfast, they have their stockings right there."

1: Handcrafted from New Zealand wool, these playful felt stockings are fun and festive. Teatro Verde, $34.95, teatroverde.com. 2: Put your peacock feathers on display with shimmering satin stockings in rich royal hues. Wal-Mart, $9.96, walmart.ca. 3: A simple holiday message in simple holiday red and white. Indigo, $19.99, chapters.indigo.ca

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No sex on Lopez tape

Remember all those reports about a Jennifer Lopez sex tape? Well, it turns out it's just pretty much a tape, sans sex. On Tuesday, a judge ruled Lopez's ex-husband, Ojani Noa, cannot use personal footage he recorded of the couple in a "documentary" he's making. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

A 'healthy' Hoff

David Hasselhoff has spoken out about his recent stay in hospital — insisting he's "happy and healthy." He was taken to a Los Angeles hospital on Friday and spent two days receiving treatment. METRO EWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Beyonce, Lady Gaga up for best song Grammy

Beyonce's Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It) and Lady Gaga's Poker Face are Grammy contenders for song of the year.

Those songs, along with Taylor Swift's You Belong With Me, Maxwell's Pretty Wings and the Kings of Leon's Use Somebody, were the first nominees announced for the 2010 Grammys last night, as the Recording Academy unveiled nominations for its 109 categories during a prime-time special.

Canadian hip-hop artist Drake also nabbed a nomination for best rap solo performance for his Best I Ever Had.

Also nominated were the Black Eyed Peas, Bon Jovi, MGMT, Darryl Hall & John Oates and The Fray for best pop performance by a duo or group.

It was the second year in a row that the Recording Academy revealed its nominees during a televised concert. Yesterday's special, hosted by LL Cool J, gave nominees such as the Black Eyed Peas, a chance to perform.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LL Cool J

Jacksoul's last is best

Late Haydain Neale put heart and soul into new album

Jacksoul

Album: SOULmate
Label: Sony Music
Rating: ●●●●

THESE TEN TRACKS were built around demo vocal tracks that Haydain Neale recorded shortly before a tragic 2007 traffic accident. Fortunately, Neale's near-perfect pitch and natural inclination to put heart and soul into every project, left us vocals as good as anything he had previously recorded. His voice has that old school sweetness we came to expect of classic singers like Smokey Robinson. Despite the terrible emotional circumstances under which the band completed this album, SOULmate is not a rush job. It contains all new Haydain Neale compositions, recorded with the same painstaking care that Jacksoul put into all four of its previous albums. Neale, who died just 10 days before SOULmate's release, has left us with an album that will go down as the band's best.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

SOULmate is the new album from R&B group Jacksoul. Frontman Haydain Neale, above, died in hospital 10 days before its release.

Allison Iraheta

Album: Just Like You
Label: Sony Music
Rating: ●●●

WELCOME TO CHAPTER three of this year's American Idol trilogy. We heard first the soon-to-be forgotten disc from winner Kris Allen, followed by the shock of a well-positioned wet one from the lips of Adam Lambert. Now it's the debut from irresistible No. 3 Idolist, Allison Iraheta. The Idol production and writing team — featuring once again the undeniable hit-making sensibilities of go-to guys like Max Martin and Kara Dioguardi — has decided to position the red-headed rocker into the role of hyper-active punk princess. That's never an easy path to follow since punk is an attitude and attitude is something almost impossible to manufacture without appearing plastic. It also seems to conflict with Iraheta's natural gift, the whiskey-aged voice of a classic roots rocker a la Melissa Etheridge. Still her considerable talents, will give Iraheta another shot to forge her own identity.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

AlbumReviews

music@metronews.ca

The Bravery

Album: Stir the Blood
Label: Island/Universal
Rating: ●●

THE BRAVERY ARE still around? Seriously? The band should have seen their last days when retro '80s turned into retro '90s, yet they continue to kick out Cure-like synth-heavy jams. The band was never that good in the first place, but at least they had trendiness on their side. Now, the group just sounds dated, while their epic electro rock is still mediocre. The only decent track is She's so Bendable, which wasn't even written by singer Sam Endicott. It's time to throw in the towel guys.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

R. Kelly

Album: Untitled
Label: Jive/Sony Music
Rating: ●●●

THERE'S ONE THING you need to know about R. Kelly: He loves sex. Here are just a smattering of the choice lyrics on his latest smooth R&B effort: "Girl you make me wanna get you pregnant," "I called your boss and he knows you ain't coming in today (sex in the morning, sex all day)," "Text me back something freaky," "Sex that we're having here girl, ohh, this is, this is number one." That's pretty much all you need to know about this disc.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Safe Rider
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NOV. 30 – DEC. 4 www.safetyauthority.ca

The Simpsons celebrate 20th birthday

On Sunday, Jan. 10, The Simpsons will air its 450th episode, with guest star Anne Hathaway. It will be followed by an hourlong special, The Simpsons 20th Anniversary Special: in 3-D! on Ice, hosted by Morgan Spurlock. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Polanski house arrest starts Friday

After more than two months in a Swiss jail, Roman Polanski will be placed under house arrest at his Alpine chalet on Friday, authorities said.

The 76-year-old director must stay in the house and wear an electronic bracelet as officials decide whether to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl, the authorities said.

"Polanski will be transferred on Friday to Gstaad," said Folco Galli, the Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman. He said the filmmaker could be in his home by early afternoon.

Galli said Wednesday that he would not comment further until Polanski was delivered to the chalet.

The director of such film classics as Rosemary's Baby, Chinatown and The Pianist won a decision last week granting him bail, but was being held by authorities until he paid the full $4.5 million demanded by court. Swiss standards differ from countries such as the United States, where bail bondsmen often post a percentage of the total.

GETTY IMAGES

Roman Polanski will begin his house arrest Friday after spending two months in a Swiss jail. Polanski paid a bail of $4.5 million.

Polanski has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles want him returned to be sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

He has been held at a jail in Winterthur, near Zurich, where recent visitors have included his Swiss lawyer and the French general consul. But it was unclear if he will be transferred directly form Winterthur to Gstaad, or taken somewhere else first to be fitted with the electronic monitoring device.

Polanski was initially accused of raping the 13-year-old girl after plying her with champagne and a Quaalude pill during a modelling shoot in 1977. He was indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molestation and sodomy, but he pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse.

In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sent him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation. The evaluator released Polanski after 42 days, but the judge said he was going to send him back to serve out the 90 days.

The filmmaker fled the U.S. on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was to be formally sentenced. He has lived since then in France, which does not extradite its citizens.

Polanski claims that the U.S. judge and prosecutors acted improperly in his case. His attorneys will argue before a California appeals court in December that the charges should be dismissed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Entertainment in brief

LAWSUIT A federal judge has dismissed a defamation lawsuit filed against Dixie Chick Natalie Maines by the stepfather of one of three eight-year-old boys killed in Arkansas 15 years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THE TIME metro

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/3/09	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Secret World of Shoplifting		The Border "Dying Art" (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	254	-	8 OMNI	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		The Simpsons
	250	321	9 CTV	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		FlashForward "A561984" (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (CC)		News
	-	-	10 JOY	Frasier (CC)	The Insider	Stargate SG-1 "Nemesis"		Supernatural (CC)		P3	Ek Noor	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Survivor: Samoa (N) (CC)		The Office (N)	The Office	90210 "And Away They Go!"		News
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (N) (CC)	Hollywood	Private Practice (N) (CC)		Fringe "Snakehead" (N) (CC)		Private Practice "Blowups"		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	The Office	The Office	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Survivor: Samoa (N) (CC)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Mentalist (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Your Health	Community (N)	Parks/Recreat	The Office (N)	30 Rock (N)	The Jay Leno Show (N) (CC)		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	He Sees You When You're Sleeping (2002) Erika Eleniak.				Under the Mistletoe (2006) Michael Shanks		
	288	380	24 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	FlashForward "A561984" (N)		Private Practice (N) (CC)		Private Practice "Blowups"		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	26 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Tales From the Darkside: The Movie ★★ (1990, Horror)				Seinfeld	King	Cheers (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				Members' Choice				Science Trek
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (N) (CC)		Fringe "Snakehead" (N) (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s (CC)				Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Live			Rock and Roll Classics	
	296	654	34 SBK	The Office	Name Is Earl	Frasier (CC)	'70s Show	South Park	Half & Half	Paid Program	Hatchett	Paid Program
	298	653	35 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	The Vampire Diaries (CC)		Supernatural (CC)		KTLA Prime News (N) (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	36 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	Maury (CC)	
	297	652	37 WPX	NFL Football: Bills vs. Jets		PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Friends (CC)	According-Jim	Family Guy	South Park	Scrubs (CC)
	199	311	76 STR	News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show/Ferguson		Inside Edition	Seinfeld
news	502	390	23 NW	The Nature of Things (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		The Nature of Things (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	NFL Football Buffalo Bills vs. New York Jets.			Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	Basketball	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Los Angeles Kings. (Subject to Blackout)					SportsCentre (Live) (CC)		SportsCentre
	411	457	43 OLN	Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters International		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	(6:00) College Football Oregon State at Oregon. (Live)				Score Now		Score Now		Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out		Pinks Out	Jacked!	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol						Gol TV News	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	To Be Indie	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	300 ★★★ (2007, Action) Gerard Butler. (CC)		
	557	541	51 FAM	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled! (N)	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
	553	546	53 TRE	Babar (CC)	Zigby	Max & Ruby	Dragon	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Frontiers of Construction		Victorian Farm (CC)		The Choir "Boys Don't Sing"		Cinema Asia "Korea" (CC)		Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Unstable	Unstable	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	According-Jim	According-Jim	Home Imp.
	570	580	42 MM	Love Court	Instant Star	disBAND	My Date	So You Think You Can Dance Canada Finals week. (CC)				Spotlight
	600	564	48 H&G	House	House	Holmes Inspection (CC)		Renovation	Disaster DIY	Holmes on Homes (CC)		House
	615	520	61 A&E	The First 48 (CC)		Steven Seagal	Steven Seagal	(:01) The First 48 (CC)		(:01) The First 48 (CC)		The First 48
	628	584	62 SPKE	(6:00) TNA Wrestling (N)		Ways to Die	Ways to Die	MANswers	GameTrailers	MANswers	Ways to Die	Sharpshooter
	521	560	64 TLC	BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		BBQ Pitmasters (CC)		American Chopper (CC)		Chopper
	616	522	65 SHO	The Outer Limits "Afterlife"		Da Vinci's City Hall (CC)		Found.	Paradise Falls	Saving Grace (N) (CC)		NCIS (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Hotel	PhotoXplorers	Law & Order "Discord" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		The Man on the Train ★★★ (2002)		
	601	562	41 SLC	X-Weighted "Angela J."		ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out (CC)		Celebrity Paranormal Project		Trading Sp
	520	505	42 DIS	MythBusters (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		Life "Hunters and Hunted"		Life "Creatures of the Deep"		MythBusters
	522	506	44 HIS	Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ancient Discoveries (CC)		Underworld Histories (CC)		Life After People (CC)		Disaster
	627	528	45 SPC	Eureka (Season Finale) (N)		InnerSpace	Stargate SG-1	"Point of View"	Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)	
	294	650	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Lopez Tonight (N)		Very Funny	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Lopez Tonight
	619	525	48 TROP	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Outer Limits (CC)		ET Canada	TV Made	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	52 FN	Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Family	Family	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Heston's Feasts (CC)		Ace of Cakes
	-	-	53 AMC	(:15) National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ★★ (1989) Chevy Chase.					The Rookie ★★★ (2002) Dennis Quaid, Rachel Griffiths. (CC)			
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Hot Box	Jon Dore	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:30) My Winnipeg ★★★		The Deal (2008) William H. Macy. Premiere.			(:45) Cassandra's Dream ★★ (2007) Ewan McGregor. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	Jersey Shore Working the summer in Seaside Heights. (CC)				Peak Season	After	Jersey Shore (CC)		
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) Philadelphia ★★★ (1993) Tom Hanks.			Recreat. Eden	On the Waterfront ★★★★ (1954) Marlon Brando. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	105 MUL	Sewing Maid	Kingdom-Wind	Vancouver	Shaktimaan	Dheeyan Ghar	Sadabahar	Connections	Desi Rhythms	Patrol World

critics'corner

The Mentalist

As Lisbon (Robin Tunney) and the team investigate the murder of a state senator's intern, Jane (Simon Baker) concentrates on finding out what new information has been uncovered on the Red John case. Tim Kang, Owain Yeoman, Terry Kinney and Amanda Righetti also star in "The Scarlet Letter"; Gregory Itzin ("24") and George Wyner guest star. 10 PM on CBS CTV

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

A hypnotist who uses her powers of persuasion to rob banks and whose last heist ended in murder becomes the prime suspect in the case for the CSI team in "The Happy Place." Marg Helgenberger and George Eads star; Jorja Fox, Sheeri Rappaport, Glenne Headly, Sam Murphy and Bruno Campos guest star. 9 PM on CBS CTV

Restaurant for cure

On January 31, 2010, Mangia e Bevi Ristorante (2222 Marine Dr, W. Van) will be holding their 3rd annual BACIO (Because a Cure is Obtainable) event in support of Lion's Gate Oncology Clinic and B.C. Children's Hospital Oncology Research. Tickets $95. mangiaebevi.ca ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

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Simple dim sum from east Richmond

ANYA LEVYKH
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Continental Seafood
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Richmond
604-278-6331

Signature Drink: Tea, of course
Signature Dish: Deep-fried Squid
Rating: ●●●
Dinner & drinks for 2: $40

With all the hype over the Canada Line, restaurants on the west side of Richmond have seen a sharp increase in diners from Vancouver.

The east side of Richmond, however, is not bereft of likely haunts, which can often be found in the most unlikely places.

Take Continental Seafood. Located in a large strip mall, its attraction lies solely with the food, especially the dim sum luncheon.

The prices are pretty typical for dim sum in Richmond, ranging from $3 to $5.75 depending on the size and whether it's a "deluxe" item.

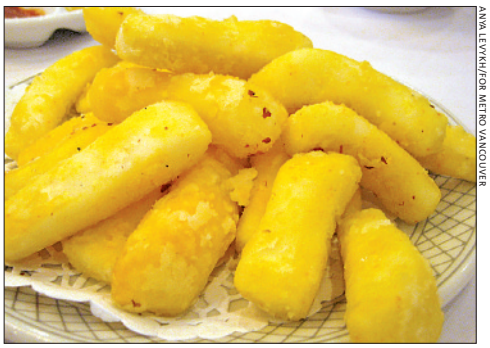
The group favourite was the deep-fried squid. These are beautifully thick, juicy bars, loosely tossed in coarse salt while hot, and sprinkled with the lightest amount of chilli flakes. Shrimp rice rolls were also delicious — if a little drowned by the sauce.

Crab claw balls were another group favourite — large, puffy, deep-fried spheres were speared with a small claw, and served with chilli oil for dipping.

The food here is not the stuff of culinary legend, but for a solid, comforting dim sum lunch — at a reasonable price — it's really quite nice.

On the web

- Read the full article online at metronews.ca/vancouver/columnist/40411.
- Chew more on Anya's blog at metronews.ca/vancouver/blog/136310.



ANYA LEVYKH/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Salt-crusted deep fried squid with chilli flakes.

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Inniskillin's latest

Inniskillin has released several new offerings from their small-lot Reserve and Discovery series. Winemaker Sandor Mayer has created two versions of his 2007 vintage, a straight, medium-bodied red with notes of spicy oak and dark cherry ($29.99), and an ice wine version that boasts fresh apple, cherry and raspberry aromas ($99.99). Both available directly from the winery.

Dining out

COOKBOOK TRIO
The Holy Trinity of Cookbooks? Perhaps, if you're a fan of West, Blue Water Café and Araxi restaurants. (And if you're not, you should be.) The three new releases are all available as a wrapped, inscribed set for $125. Order online at toptable.ca or at any of the restaurants.

WINERY OFFER
Vista D'oro Farms & Winery is offering a special holiday package of their 2007 D'oro, a fortified, port-style wine, along with your choice of three of their artisanal preserves, for $90. Favourites are the Turkish Fig with Walnut Wine, Spiced Cranberry with Ice Wine, and Green Walnut with Grappa. Call 604-514-3539.

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You don't Say! Lisa Loeb welcomes baby girl
It's a baby girl for singer Lisa Loeb and her husband Roey Hershkovitz, her rep tells People. Lyla Rose Loeb Hershkovitz arrived Sunday morning, Nov. 29 at Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and is the first child for the couple. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Clooney's GF meets mom

LET'S BE GENEROUS AND GIVE IT SIX MORE MONTHS THEN Things must be going well between George Clooney and his new Italian girlfriend, Elisabetta Canalis. The avowed bachelor showed up to the L.A. premiere of Up in the Air with Canalis on one arm and his mother on the other, according to Hollyscoop. "Elisabetta and George's mother seemed to be getting along just great," a source says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Family Ties mom Baxter comes out: 'I'm a lesbian'

WELCOME HOME Most people know Meredith Baxter as Elyse Keaton, everyone's favorite mom from the hit '80s sitcom Family Ties. But now the actress reveals to People that she's ready for the world to see her in a different — and surprising — way: "I'm a lesbian mom," she says.

Before Baxter, 62, first started dating women seven years ago, the thought of being gay "had never crossed my mind," people.com quotes her as saying. Having been in three failed marriages to men (most famously to actor David Birney), she says of her many difficult years before coming out, "I was never comfortable with myself." But she's quick to add, "That doesn't mean I was questioning."

People reports she is now in a four-year relationship with building contractor Nancy Locke — the couple have lived together for two years — the actress, who continues to act and run a skincare company, says, "I feel like I'm being honest for the first time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Motherhood on Portman's 'radar'

APPLICANTS CAN FORM A LINE HERE It looks like motherhood may be on Natalie Portman's radar. The actress admits that it's something she's been thinking about, according to Hollyscoop. "I feel like I'm coming into my womanhood, and I'm less afraid or maybe I'm just getting old," she says. "I think about having kids, but I think you can't plan for that sort of thing. It's not like you can work at it."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Imogen Heap is out picking up friends, Lance Armstrong is afraid of a little snow, and Paris Hilton has more Paranormal Activity in her social life, perhaps?

@imogenheap
Driving about Washington DC in a stretch limo. Where should we go? If you come up with a good idea we'll pick you up. Room for 4 people

@lancearmstrong
Weather forecast is calling for snow flurries in Austin on Friday. That ain't funny.

@ParisHilton
Just turned the movie off, so boring and so not scary. Looking to see what else to watch.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Eva Longoria 'delighted' with her body

TOO BAD NOBODY WATCHES HER SHOW TO SEE IT Eva Longoria goes to the gym four times a week in a bid to maintain her stunning figure, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Desperate Housewives actress — who was forced to laugh off rumours she was pregnant last year when she but on weight — knows regular exercise is the perfect way to keep off any unwanted pounds.

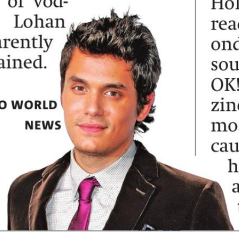
A source said: "Eva hits the gym four times a week for an hour each time, and it's certainly paying off ... She's delighted with her figure."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Are Mayer and Lohan new drinking buddies?

JUST HIS LUCK John Mayer has a new bar-hopping pal, apparently. The singer was spotted hanging out at New York nightclub Butter recently with Lindsay Lohan, according to E! News. But sources say Lohan seemed much more interested in hanging out with Mayer than vice-versa.

"She would follow his every move," a sources says. "He would dance with the waitresses and then come back. She was way into it." And while Mayer was spotted downing shot after shot of vodka, Lohan apparently abstained.



METRO WORLD NEWS

TomKat ready for baby number 2?

YAY! ANOTHER SCIENTOLOGIST Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes are ready for a second child, sources tell OK! Magazine, and it's mostly because Holmes has come around to the idea. While she's wanted to focus on work, Holmes and Cruise reportedly reached an agreement on trying for another baby sometime next year.

METRO WORLD NEWS

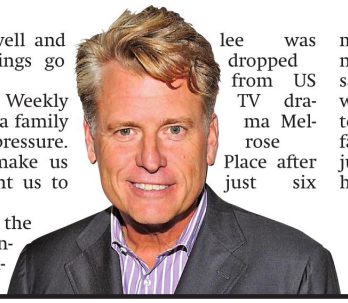
Simpson complains world 'wants his family to fail'

WELL JOE, IT'S JUST THAT YOU'RE ALL SO GOOD AT IT Jessica Simpson's father claims the world wants his family to fail, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

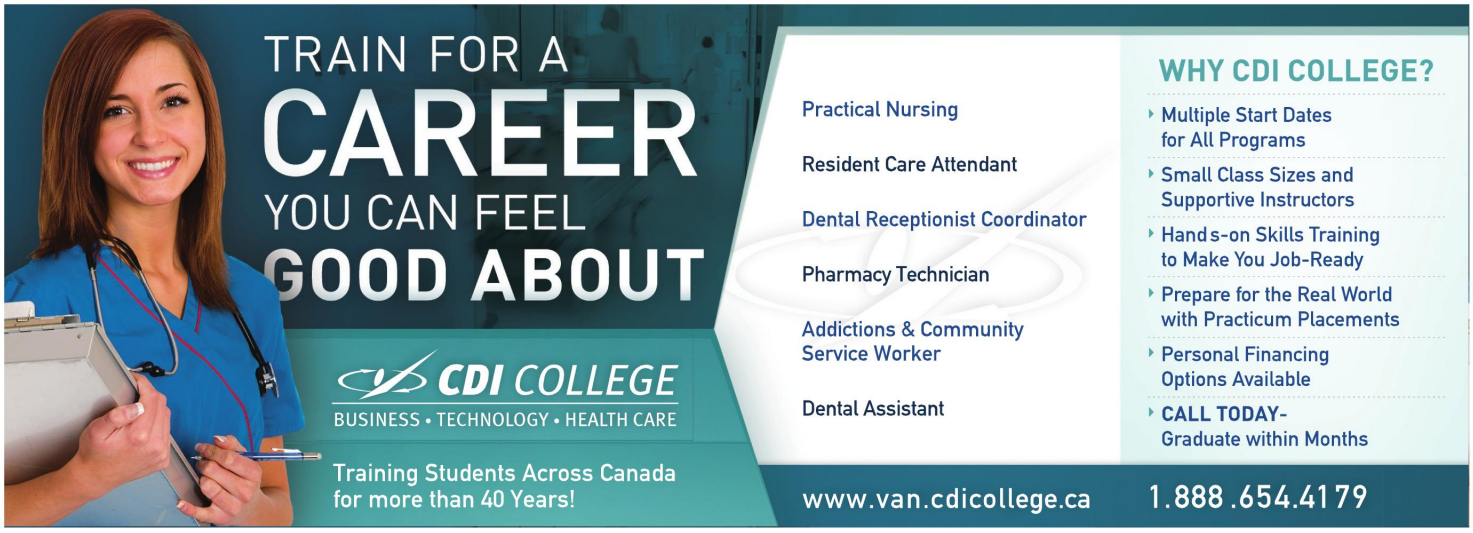
Joe Simpson, a former reverend — who manages both his famous daughters, Jessica Simpson and Ashlee Simpson-Wentz — says people don't want to see them doing well and get joy when things go wrong.

He fumed to Us Weekly magazine: "We as a family are under a lot pressure. People want to make us look bad and want us to fail."

Simpson claims the family wasn't concerned when Ashlee was dropped from US TV drama Melrose Place after just six months. He said: "It was never a loss. The world says whatever it says. The world, again, always wants to make it look like we're failures but we're really just a family that works hard."



METRO NEWS SERVICES



The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data
Today Partly cloudy 4° / 1°
Friday Rain and snow 70% 3° / 1°
Saturday Partly cloudy 5° / -1°
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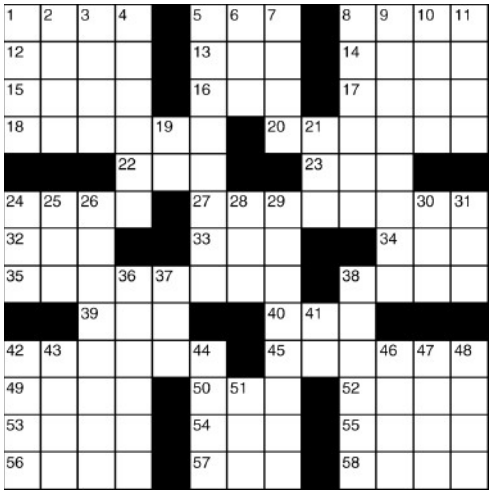
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Truckload
5 Bill
8 Bat a gnat
12 Celestial bear
13 In olden times
14 Apiece
15 Clarinet insert
16 Sleep phenom
17 Ersatz swing
18 Lasso
20 Piece of lumber used for flooring (Brit.)
22 Ostrich's cousin
23 Apiece
24 "Desire Under the —"
27 Stronghold
32 — constrictor
33 Dillinger's foes (Abbr.)
34 Old French coin
35 Strengthen
38 Capri, for one
39 Former M&M's color
40 Discoverer's call
42 Back-related
45 Less of a mess
49 Help a hood
50 Chic no more
52 Notion
53 Got up
54 To and —
55 Coach Chuck, who won four Super Bowls
56 "Untouchables" role
57 "— the season ..."
58 Otherwise

DOWN

1 Throw hard
2 Vicinity
3 Person at a PC
4 Half the audience?
5 Molière protagonist
6 Census statistic
7 Broadway flop
8 Large bird dog
9 Diner staffer
10 Farm fraction
11 As a result
19 Exist
21 Suitable
24 Recede
25 Brock of baseball
26 Place to settle?
28 Old, like a wd.
29 Rice dishes
30 Scale member
31 Seek damages
36 Preferences
37 Genetics abbr.
38 Common antiseptic
41 Greeting
42 "Nuts!"
43 Bassoon kin
44 Barn section
46 "American —"
47 Congers, e.g.
48 Rough breathing sound
51 Spoon-bender Geller

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9	7	2		3	4	6	
6	3						5	7
		8	3		4	7		
	1			2			9	
		5	6		9	1		
5	4						1	2
	7	2	5		8	9	4	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	2	6	7	3	9	4	5	8
5	8	7	2	1	4	3	6	9
3	4	9	6	5	8	2	7	1
6	9	3	4	2	7	8	1	5
4	5	8	9	6	1	7	3	2
7	1	2	3	8	5	9	4	6
8	3	1	5	7	2	6	9	4
2	7	4	1	9	6	5	8	3
9	6	5	8	4	3	1	2	7

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chicken Coconut Pineapple Curry

Submitted by Alison Glasbergen, Victoria, BC

INGREDIENTS:

1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
2 boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into small chunks
1 inch piece of ginger, grated (a rasp grater works really well)
1 Can of coconut milk (shake can before opening - coconut milk settles over time)
2 Tablespoon thai red curry paste (thai red curry is quite mild, so use a bit more if you like things spicy)
2 green onions, chopped
1 1/2 Cup of fresh pineapple, cut into bite-size chunks
1/2 Cup cilantro, finely chopped
salt and pepper to taste
1 1/2 Cup jasmine rice, cooked according to package directions

METHOD:

1. Heat oil in large frying pan over medium/low heat and add chicken, stirring often.
2. Season lightly with salt and pepper.
3. When chicken is no longer pink, reduce heat to low and add grated ginger and continue to cook for 1 minute.
4. Add coconut milk and red curry paste, and stir until curry paste is dissolved.
5. Increase heat to medium and gently simmer for 2 minutes, but do not let it come to the boil.
6. Add green onions, pineapple chunks and stir to combine.
7. Garnish with chopped cilantro and serve over a bowl of Jasmine rice.

SERVES 4
PREP TIME: 8 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
With the Sun moving through one of the best areas of your chart at the moment you can't fail to get your way. Enjoy your luck, but don't push it.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A positive outlook is a must today. Not that anything bad will happen but when small things go wrong you may think it's the end of the world. It's not.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A project which has been in a state of limbo for some time can now start moving forwards again. No more excuses: get to it!

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
If you do something to excess today you will regret it over the weekend. In a nutshell: don't work too hard and don't risk your health.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
The Sun's transit of the most dynamic sector of your chart means you have no doubts and no fears – just like most times really, only more so by far.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Keep your options open today, especially at work as this is where you are most likely to be let down by other people. Stay cool, calm and in control.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You need to rise above petty distractions and see the bigger picture. Your future is bright, no matter how dark it seems now.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Today's events will urge you to raise your game and take more risks. It's not irresponsible to change if you've sick of doing the same old things

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Not only did yesterday's full moon make you emotional but it also made you realize that honesty is essential at all times.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
The Sun in Sagittarius at this time of year has a negative effect on your confidence but a lot of it is in the mind.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You will have to fight for your rights against the odds today, but actually those odds are not nearly so bad as you appear to believe.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
The more someone says you can trust them the more precautions you need to take. Don't let that happen.

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Today in history

1912: First Balkan War: The Naval Battle of Elli takes place.
1964: Berkeley Free Speech Movement: Police arrest over 800 students at the University of California, Berkeley, following their takeover and sit-in on UC property.
1976: An assassination attempt is made on Bob Marley. He is shot twice, but plays a concert two days later.
1997: In Ottawa, Canada, representatives from 121 countries sign The Ottawa treaty prohibiting manufacture and deployment of anti-personnel landmines.

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